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surprised at the amount of dollars that will be therein spent, for we have no conception of what it is to reconstruct an edifice like that. We can compliment Messrs. Berger, St. Louis and Cousineau on the fact that they display taste and care in the work and that they will make the interior of the Court House something entirely modern."

There is the whole story of this so-called scandal! It is a Liberal mess, cleared up, as best they could, by the Conservatives.

THE OUIMET-DE LA BRUÈRE-CHAPAIS AFFAIR.

Another terrible scandal that the Liberals try to build up; they call it the Ouimet-de la Bruère-Chapais scandal.

Here is the sum and substance of it.

In 1895, Hon. Mr. Ouimet, who was Superintendent of Public Instruction since 1876, asked to be retired, and he obtained the superannuation to which he had a right.

Hon. Mr. de la Bruère, Speaker of the Legislative Council, was named to succeed him, at a salary of \$3,000; Mr. Ouimet's salary was \$4,000.

Hon. Mr. Chapais, who was leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, and minister without portfolio since 1893, was then named Speaker of the Legislative Council to replace Mr. de la Bruère.

So far we see nothing wonderful in all this; and the Liberals might yell themselves dumb before they could show anything loose, irregular, or dishonorable in these appointments. Mr. Ouimet surely had the right to his superannuation after 19 years of faithful service.

The appointment of Mr. de la Bruère was approved of by the best men in our ecclesiastical and civil circles, and as to Mr. Chapais, his elevation to the Speaker's chair, in the Upper House, met with universal approval, and was even a subject for congratulatory speeches by Messrs. Starnes and Archambault, who were the directing spirits of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

But the Liberals say, since Mr. Ouimet was too old and too sick to remain superintendent, why was he appointed to the Legislative Council in the place of Mr. de la Bruère?

Yes, the Conservative Government thought well to make that appointment, and, here again, it can defy the attacks of the Opposition, for a man like Mr. Ouimet may well find the difficult duties of superintendent very heavy, and yet be perfectly able to give his experience and his knowledge, as a benefit, to the Province during the six or seven weeks of each session. There is no anomaly in that.

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Mr. Ouimet was a former Prime Minister, a former Attorney-General, and his entry into the Legislative Council was approved on all sides.

But the Government is accused of having given Mr. Ouimet his superannuation while naming him to the Council.

There is nothing contrary to law or justice in that course. It must not be forgotten that the superannuation was Mr. Ouimet's right, since he had paid into the fund, during three years, 5 per cent, and during 16 years, 3 per cent of his salary.

Unable to find fault with the above arguments, the Liberals cry out that the Council of Public Instruction, in recognition of Mr. Ouimet's services in the cause of education, voted him a gratuity on his retiring from office. But the Government has nothing to do with that gratuity, for it does not come within the Government's province.

This simple statement of the facts shows how childish and ridiculous is the attempt of the Opposition to construct a scandal out of such meagre material. Accusations must be scarce or we would not be treated to such an absurd specimen.

THE "HARAS NATIONAL."

One of the Mercier Government Contracts.

Every Liberal voter speaks of the "Haras National," (National Stud) as a scandal. It is their usual cry when they touch on this question. But who is answerable for this contract? The Mercier Government of course.

Take the Journals of the Legislative Assembly, at the date 26th December, 1890, and you will there find a resolution moved by Mr. Mercier granting \$6,000 per year, during five years, to the Haras National.

Then take the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, for 1891, signed by the Honorable Honoré Mercier, and, at page 7, you will read these words:

"In virtue of the contract passed since the last session, with the Haras National Company, six agricultural societies, selected by lot, have each had the use of one of the stallions of the Company, during the season just elapsed."

As we said before, this report is signed: *Honoré Mercier*. So if there were any scandal, any extravagance, any act of maladministration in this Haras National affair (all of which we do not admit), it is the Mercier Government that is responsible.

The Opposition is ever ready to find scandals, concerning the different affairs that we have proven to be perfectly regular, and regarding which the Government is, in every case, above censure; yet it still may be noted that the Liberal speakers and writers have never brought even the shadow of a proof to uphold their criticisms. And above all the Opposition has never dared ask the House for a regular enquiry into any of the transactions that they call scandals.

Set at defiance, on several occasions, to risk their seats by launching definite accusations against this or that minister, they always remained prudently silent.

NO EVIDENCE.

No Investigations.

What a contrast with the Conservative party, which, under the reign of Mr. Mercier, multiplied its demands for investigation, and proved before the Royal Commissions the boodling, the cheating, the thieving, which stirred up the public to an indignation felt all over the Dominion.

The snarlers of the Opposition barked loud but never tried to bite, for they felt that their teeth had been drawn.

The Liberal press pretends that they once tried to start an investigation to establish a scandal. They mean in the case of the French loan. On that occasion, they say, our friends in the House tried to bring Mr. Barbeau before the Public Accounts Committee and to question him so as to get at the truth. This pretention is as puerile as any of the others that they have made.

It is true that they asked to have Mr. Barbeau heard before the Public Accounts Committee, as he had been sent by Mr. Taillon to France to finish the negotiation of the loan.

It is also perfectly true that Hon. Mr. Flynn, before the Committee, objected to the asking Mr. Barbeau certain questions, but not for the purpose of hiding anything loose or wrong from the House or the public did he so object. It was simply to protect the public interests by avoiding certain questions and answers concerning the conversion of the debt, for which steps were then being taken and which might be injured by premature disclosures. It was a simple matter of business and prudence which everyone acquainted with financing understood.

But if the Opposition, instead of limiting itself to the asking of questions right and left to Mr. Barbeau, had brought a formal accusation of conspiring, or of wrong-doing in the French loan transaction, against Mr. Taillon, or against anybody else, at once the Conservative Premier would have asked for an investigation to confound his calumniators. But the Liberals were too cowardly to risk their seats in such an adventure.

They were too cowardly to formulate a direct accusation. Set at defiance by repetitions of the statement that someone—be it the Premier or some person else—had speculated in an illicit manner with the loan, the Opposition never dared take up the gauntlet, and once more it gave evidence of its innate conviction of the integrity and honor of the Conservative Government.

SUPERANNUATIONS.

One of the Liberal war cries is "Superannuations," and "Under the Conservatives the superannuation figures are higher than under the Liberals." "In 1891," they say, "the last year of the Liberal administration, the amount for superannuations was only \$28,669.08 (see Public Accounts for 1891, page —), and in 1896, under the Conservatives, that amount reached \$41,012.06, or an increase of \$12,342.98."

It must not be forgotten that this is a branch that cannot be controlled at will. When employees die, according to law, a pension must be paid to their widows. When employees become too old, they have a right to their superannuation. Finally, the good of the public service sometimes demands that certain employees be superannuated. And it is the same under all administrations.

But the Liberals err in making so much noise on this subject. In truth, the last year of the Ross Government, in 1887, the Conservatives had paid for superannuations \$13,937.68. And when the Liberals went out, in 1891, they had reached the sum of \$28,669.08.

Let us understand it well :

Civil Service superannuations, Pub. Accts., 1891, p. 203.	\$ 28,669 08
" " " " 1887, p. 12.	13,937 68
Increase	\$ 14,731 40

The Conservatives, therefore, saw the superannuations, under their own administration increase by about \$2,000 less than did the Liberals see their increase under their sway.

First point gained.

The second point is still better than the first ; the Liberals did not abolish the superannuation fund while they were in power, *whilst the Conservatives abolished it.*

See the statutes of 1893, page 41 ; there you will find a law in virtue of which no employee appointed after the 1st of January of that year can draw from the superannuation fund. And since then, and for the future, the pension system has been abolished.

Therefore, as regards this superannuation question, the position of the Conservatives is ten-fold better than that of the Liberals.

SCANDALS OF THE LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Robberies of the "Cligue."

We have proven the ridiculousness of the little scandals that the Liberals have tried to build up against the Conservative Government ; now we will stir up the ashes of the past and show in its true light the purity of the Liberal party as demonstrated in the few shameful pages with which it has darkened the political history of our Province.

They talk of scandals ! We have seen with what success they tried to saddle the present Government with their own misdeeds. Well ; we will now place them face to face with their own abominable doings of 1891, and once more prove the truth of an old proverb : " that often it is the thief who cries out ' stop thief.' "

It would take too much time and space to recite the history of all the Mercier administration's scandals, all the shameful transactions of that faction which the people swept from power in 1892, and the miserable remnant of which again tries to lift up its head in the expectation that its crimes are forgotten.

It is well, before the electors give their verdict on the 11th of May next, to recall to their minds the incredible rapine, the gigantic robberies of which the Liberal party in our Province had been guilty from 1887 to 1891.

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THE BAIE DES CHALEURS SCANDAL.

Recognized as the Most Gigantic Operation of the "Cligue."

It was proven before a Royal Commission composed of three judges that Mr. Ernest Pacaud, Premier Mercier's right bower, and Provincial Secretary Charles Langelier's factotum, caused, through his influence with the Government, \$175,000 to flow from the treasury, despite the law, and ostensibly to pay a subsidy to the Baie des Chaleurs Railway Company, but in reality to wrench a good sized carrot out of the Provincial garden.

Of these \$175,000, it was proven that Mr. Pacaud extorted \$100,000 from Mr. Armstrong, the contractor for the said railway, and the use of which money he explains himself, and with an unparalleled cynicism, before the Royal Commission:

"For Messrs. Mercier, C. and F. Langlier and Senator Pelletier, all Liberals. Payment made to take up three notes made by Mr. Pacaud and endorsed by them, the amounts of which were devoted to political purposes. Notes for which they were all responsible, collectively and individually \$15,000

For Messrs. Mercier, C. Langelier, C. A. P. Pelletier and Tarte, all Liberals. Payment made to take up two notes made by E. Pacaud and endorsed by them, the amounts of which were devoted to political purposes. Notes for which they were collectively and individually responsible 8,000

For Mr. Mercier:

Payment made for and on account of Mr. Mercier.....	6,788
For Mr. Langelier, minister.....	9,291
For Mr. Duhamel, minister.....	100
For different members.....	1,582
For Messrs. Langelier and Tarte.....	2,000
To help Mr. Tarte to prosecute his McGreevy investigation.....	1,900
To certain newspapers.....	4,850
Sundries (election purposes)	5,586

For Pacaud personally :

House.....	8,000
New York architect.....	1,000
Quebec architect.....	300
Decorations	2,548
Reward to endorser Vallieres	1,000
His lawyer.....	1,250
Trip to Europe	3,340
Share in mine.....	1,136
Reward to Mr. Armstrong	2,000
Steamboat to go to Malbaie	100
To pay cheques the objects of which are not explained	4,243
For unexplained expenses.....	2,987

Grand Total..... \$83,065

Money in hand.....	\$ 447
Discount security at the Banque du Peuple	3,000
Union Bank.....	90
Union Bank (Savings Branch).....	55
Merchants Bank.....	62
National Park Bank, New York.....	20,000
Cash	1,800

Total..... \$25,000

These are the facts as stated in cold blood and based on proof. They show us simply that ministers of the former government caused \$40,000, from a job that cost the Province \$140,000, to be paid for them.

It was in presence of these facts that the first Royal Commission drew up an interim report that placed the Lieutenant-Governor under the obligation of discharging the Government, and as a consequence, dissolving the Parliament.

We could cite hundreds of pages of comment upon that unclean transaction, indignant comments of even Liberals. Let it suffice to recall the fact that Mr. Tarte wrote that "Mr. Armstrong had no right to receive half a cent," and to quote the words of the Liberal chief, Mr. Laurier :

"As to the Baie des Chaleurs scandal, I do not hesitate to say that it was a fraud, an unfortunate transaction, that must be unhesitatingly condemned, that cannot be defended."

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THE SYLVICULTEUR SCANDAL.

In the midst of a Federal election, during the month of February, 1891, when over \$100,000 of boodle was secured by the *clique*, Messrs. Pacaud, Langelier and Langlais came to an arrangement to extract a large sum from the treasury, for the purpose of helping their friends and brothers. On the 10th February, in most beautiful handwriting, Mr. Langelier wrote the following *billet doux* to Mr. Langlais. (Royal Comm. of 1892, page 59) :

"PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT,

"Minister's Office,

"QUEBEC, 10th February, 1891.

"MR. J. A. LANGLAIS,

"Bookseller; Editor :

"Dear Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the Governmer^t has decided, in accordance with your request to purchase fifty thousand (50,000) copies of the work entitled 'Le Sylviculteur Illustré,' at the price of fifty cents (\$0.50) per copy, the whole forming a sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). An item representing the said sum will be placed in the estimates for the next session, and the said sum will be paid after the session to the holder of this letter bearing your endorsement.

"I remain,

"Yours very truly,

(Signed) "CHS. LANGELIER,

"Provincial Secretary."

FIFTY THOUSAND copies of a technical work, which, according to experts, would have received all the publication that would be of any use or benefit in an edition of three thousand copies !

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS for a pamphlet ! Enough to make the fortunes of ten good farmers !

To-day, even, thousands of copies of the Sylviculteur are piled up in cellars of the parliament buildings. So much money extorted and wasted.

This wonderful bargain was either an act of pure madness or a masterpiece of boodling.

After receiving this letter of credit, Mr. Langlais endorsed it as follows (page 59) :

"Endorsation : Please pay to the order of the Caisse d'Economie de Notre-Dame de Québec.

"(Signed),

J. A. LANGLAIS."

In the inquiry before the Royal Commission, Mr. Marcoux, teller of the Caisse d'Economie, gave this evidence :

"As I stated in my first deposition, the Caisse d'Economie does not discount. We have made loans on collateral securities of letters of credit. The Caisse d'Economie, on the 11th February, 1891, made a loan to J. A. Langlais of \$22,500, guaranteed by a letter of credit signed by the Honorable Provincial Secretary, dated 10th February, 1891." (Page 58.)

Mr. Lafrance, of the Banque Nationale, being in turn questioned, made answer as follows :

"In the month of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one (1891), three cheques were drawn by the Caisse d'Economie to the order of J. A. Langlais, one bearing the number 19,028, for the sum of eleven thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$11,125); another bearing the number 19,029, for the sum of eleven thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$11,125), also, and a third bearing the number 19,030, for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250), forming in all twenty-two thousand five hundred dollars (\$22,500)." (Page 68).

One of these cheques of \$11,125 was traced as follows. Mr Dumoulin, of the Banque du Peuple, being heard as witness, swore in these words :

Answer : "This cheque was deposited, less three thousand dollars (\$3,000), to the credit of Mr. Pacaud, the 10th February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one."

Question : "Were the three thousand dollars deposited in your bank?"

Answer : "No ; he deposited the cheque for eight thousand one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$8,125), and he drew, immediately, three thousand dollars (\$3,000) in money."

Just \$11,125 of boodle for the toll-keeper !

THE MONTREAL AND OTTAWA \$14,900 SCANDAL.

In the first weeks of February, 1891, the fatal month, the Quebec *clique* pillaged the treasury of the Province to secure Mr. Laurier's triumph in the Federal elections.

Mr. Geoffrion was treasurer of the Liberal party in Montreal.

Money was badly needed, and at all cost several thousand dollars had to be found for the election.

These pure politicians were not long at sea ; they laid claim to a subsidy of \$37,500, voted by the Legislature in favor of the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company.

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Mr. Alphonse Charlebois was the contractor for the company, and it seems that the company transferred him this subsidy; in any case, the transfer was not served on the Treasury Department, which, without legal service, could not pay the subsidy to others than the Company.

The 7th February, a Saturday, an Order-in-Council was passed by the Provincial Cabinet authorizing the issue of a money order for \$37,500 to pay this subsidy. Mr. Mercier was present at that Cabinet meeting and he left for Montreal the same night, the 7th February.

Between the 7th and the 10th Mr. Alphonse Charlebois transferred to Mr. Geoffrion, treasurer of the Liberal party, \$14,900 of the \$37,500 subsidy.

The 10th February Mr. Mercier, then in Montreal, gave Mr. Geoffrion a letter informing him that in virtue of the subsidy transfer by Mr. Charlebois, a cheque would be issued by the Treasurer to his order, or to the order of any person whom Mr. Geoffrion would indicate. Mr. Mercier sent, at the same time a copy of that letter to Mr. Shehyn.

The same day, the 10th February, Mr. Geoffrion himself wrote to Mr. Shehyn begging him to hurry up the payment, as one day of delay might bring disastrous results.

But in the Treasury Department was the honest and inflexible Mr. Machin, the type of a faithful employé. Mr. Machin refused to issue the cheque to Mr. Charlebois' order, because no transfer from the Company to Mr. Charlebois had been served on the office.

Two days went past, and yet no cheque, no money.

Mr. Geoffrion was in a dilemma.

On the 12th, he telegraphed Mr. Shehyn to hurry up, for God's sake. But Mr. Machin was as immutable as a rock.

The influence of the great master, the autocrat himself, was necessary.

Mr. Mercier went down to Quebec on the 13th February, as may be seen in *L'Electeur* of the morning of the 14th February.

"Honorable Mr. Mercier arrived in Quebec yesterday afternoon by the Pacific line."

And, on the 14th February, a memorable day, the Premier's sovereign authority put a new face on the situation.

On the formal order of Mr. Mercier, Messrs. Machin and Verret had to sign the cheque for \$14,903 and to hand it to the great chief himself, who gave the following receipt:

"Received this 14th February, 1891, from the Honorable Treasurer, the above mentioned sum."

"(Signed)

H. MERCIER."

The cheque ran thus :

"PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
QUEBEC, 14th February, 1891.

To the Montreal Bank :

"Pay to the order of the Montreal and Ottawa Railway Company
\$14,903 and 50 cents.

Countersigned,

\$14,903.50.

(Signed) A. H. VERRET, Provincial Auditor,
H. A. MACHIN, Assistant Treasurer.

Mr. Mercier then had the \$14,903 cheque in his pocket. What next took place ?

The boddling superintendent, Mr. Ernest Pacaud, naturally appeared on the scene. When there is a money deal to be made you always find, at the exact and right moment, the pitiful and sugar-coated face of the insatiable Ernest appear.

The 14th February was a Saturday. The banks close at one o'clock.

Mark this well :

Before the cheque was ready, and Mr. Mercier had received it, Mr. Pacaud went to the Union Bank. He informed Mr. Webb, the teller, that this famous cheque was being brought into the world at the treasury department, that it should be discounted that same day, on account of it being immediately required, and he asked Mr. Webb to keep the bank open until he came back with the cheque.

He then hurried to the department, went in search of his illustrious accomplice, Mr. Mercier, who gave him the cheque that he had, himself, just received. Pacaud set out for the Lower Town at full gallop.

He presented his cheque. But horrible disappointment ! Mr. Webb refused to pay it because it had not the endorsement of the Company. What was to be done ?

But Pacaud is used to turning sharp corners. Like a flash, he offered his note for \$14,940, at eight days' endorsement by Mr. Mercier, and guaranteed that the official cheque would be endorsed in the meantime.

Mr. Webb accepted that proposition. Pacaud gave his note for \$14,940, endorsed by Mr. Mercier. The Union Bank immediately paid the \$14,940 to Mr. Pacaud, who gave an order to transmit, that same day, the 14th February, to Mr. Geoffrion, the treasurer of the Liberal party in Montreal, the sum of \$7,000.

As to the balance of the \$14,000 the "old boy" alone can tell where it went to and what Mercier and Pacaud did with it.

At the expiration of the eight days, the cheque sent to Montreal came back endorsed, and Mr. Pacaud's note was paid with the product of that cheque.

Is this clear enough?

Is the conspiracy sufficiently manifest?

Is the crime evident enough?

Is Mr. Mercier's active and predominating participation in the transaction sufficiently proven?

The documents are there.

The sworn testimony of Messrs. Webb and Machin are there.

Mr. Mercier received the \$14,900 cheque, gave it to Pacaud, then the latter failing to have it paid, Mr. Mercier with Pacaud made a note to secure the money; the note was paid with the amount of the cheque.

And all this occurred in the midst of the Federal elections, a few days after the \$25,000 stroke of the Sylviculteur, a few days before the \$60,000 stroke of the Langlais stationery.

Are there not numbers in the penitentiary who have only been guilty of petty thefts compared with these robberies, with these misappropriations, with these pieces of wholesale brigandage?

We ask the electorate of Quebec: Are you calmly prepared to hand over, once more, the reins of power to these bandits?

THE \$60,000 LANGLAIS STATIONERY SCANDAL.

But this is not all. On the 22nd February more money was needed and recourse was again had to Langlais. Mr. Mercier wrote the following letter (Royal Commission, 1892, pp. 20 and 27):

QUEBEC, 23rd, February, 1891.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that, after consulting with my colleagues, we have been authorized to tell you that the Government has decided to supply you, for the term of four years, from the 1st of March next, the supplying of all the necessary stationery to the public offices under our control. An order to that effect will be at once given to all the public offices at the Legislative building, at the Prothonotary's office, at

that of the Sheriff, and of the Police Court, at Quebec, and at the offices of the Prothonotary, Sheriff, Police and District Magistrates, at Montreal. An order will also be given to the Registrars of the different districts of the Province, as well as to the Government printers, to purchase from you, in future, the special officially marked paper. You will be paid for this paper according to the current price.

I refer only to the paper necessary for the departments and public offices above mentioned, and in no way to the printing of such paper, which will be done wherever the Government desires.

I have the honor to be,

Yours very truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER,
Prime Minister.

J. A. LANGLAIS, ESQ.,
Stationer and Bookseller,
QUEBEC, P. Q.

This simple letter created a four years' monopoly that amounted to \$300,000.

Mr. Langlais, who is an adept in business, answered as follows (pp. 21 and 28):

QUEBEC, 23rd February, 1891.

HON. HONORÉ MERCIER,

Prime Minister, Quebec.

DEAR PREMIER,

I have just received your letter dated to-day by which you confide to me, for the space of four years, from the first of March next, the supplying of all the necessary paper to the public offices under the control of the government.

As the fulfilling of that contract will demand considerable advances on my part, I desire to ask you the favor of facilitating for me the means of securing credit in the banks. Would you be good enough to tell me, considering the importance of the contract, what amount you could advance me, and at what time?

You will infinitely oblige,

Your devoted servant,

J. A. LANGLAIS.

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(p. 22):

Generous Mr. Mercier replied thus : (pp. 21 and 28).

QUEBEC, 23rd February, 1891.

SIR,—I have just received your letter, dated to-day, asking me to facilitate for you the means of obtaining necessary advances, from the banks, to permit the execution of your contract, demanding the supplying of all the necessary paper to the public offices under our control. I have no objection to meet your views. Taking into consideration the importance of the contract, as well as the average sums paid for the same purpose in the past, I can inform you that the Government will pay you, or to your order, the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), six months from that date, that is to say from the first of March next.

I have the honor to be,

Yours very truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER,

Prime Minister.

MR. J. A. LANGLAIS,

Bookseller, Quebec.

The same day, Mr. Langlais' appetite being sharpened, made another request, (p. 22) :

QUEBEC, 23rd February, 1891.

HON. HONORÉ MERCIER,

Prime Minister,

Quebec.

DEAR PREMIER,—

I have just received your letter, in which you are good enough to tell me that the Government will pay me the sum of thirty thousand dollars, in six months, from the first of March next, for the supplying of all the necessary paper to the public offices. I take the liberty of calling your attention to the fact that at the expiration of the six months the Government will certainly owe me a much larger sum than the thirty thousand dollars promised. It seems that you could, without compromising the Government's interests, allow to be paid me, at that time, at least the sum of sixty thousand dollars.

Hoping you will agree to my just request,

I have the honor to be,

Yours devotedly,

J. A. LANGLAIS.

Mr. Langlais, who asks for another \$30,000, had only, so far, paid out \$11,705. But this did not prevent Mr. Mercier from thus answering him (p. 22) :

QUEBEC, 23rd February, 1891.

SIR,—

I have just received your letter, in which you tell me that you find the promise of a payment of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000), in six months, on account of your contract, insufficient, and you ask me to double the amount.

I regret to say that I cannot grant your request. In my opinion, the sum of thirty thousand dollars will be sufficient to pay for what you shall then have supplied to the Government. I have no objection, however, to tell you that the Government will pay, to you or to your order, an additional sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in one year from the 1st March next.

Hoping this may suffice to allow you to faithfully fulfil your contract, I beg of you to believe me,

Yours very truly,

HONORÉ MERCIER,
Prime Minister.

Mr. J. A. Langlais,
Bookseller, Quebec.

A memorable day was that 23rd February, 1891; the monopoly for four years granted to Mr. Langlais; first letter of credit for \$30,000, signed in favor of Mr. Langlais; second letter of credit for \$30,000, signed in favor of Mr. Langlais; \$60,000 in two strokes of a pen!!

A day that must have swelled the fund of the Liberal Committee, at Quebec, for the Federal elections that took place on the 5th March.

Mr. Langlais had the two letters of credit discounted. He admits it over his signature in the following document:

DEPARTMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

MINISTER'S OFFICE,

QUEBEC, 29th December, 1891.

MR. JOS. BOIVIN,
Assistant Provincial Secretary,
Quebec.

SIR,

On the subject of the letters that passed between the ex-minister, Hon. Mr. Mercier, and me, on the 23rd February last, for the furnishing of paper during four years, and the two letters of \$30,000 each, I desire to inform you that the two letters were discounted at the Caisse d'Economie de Notre-Dame de Québec, which advanced the \$60,000.

Yours very truly,

J. A. LANGLAIS.

In fine here is the statement furnished by the supplier-in-chief, establishing what he had furnished since the month of March :

STATEMENT.

Amounts furnished to the different departments, since the month of March, 1891.....	\$ 11,705 93
	\$ 11,705 93

The above amount represents the value of all that had been furnished and delivered by me, in virtue of the letters that passed between ex-minister, Hon. Mr. Mercier, and me, the 23rd February last.

J. A. LANGLAIS.

Québec, 28th December, 1891.

That advance of **\$60,000** for \$11,000 worth of supplies, delivered during six months, was as ingenious as it was an audacious method of swelling the Liberal electoral fund from the Provincial treasury.

A letter from Mr. Garneau, Prime Minister *ad interim*, dated 15th May, 1891, to the different departments, ordering them to take their stationery from Mr. J. A. Langlais, bears the following endorsement, by order of the Premier :

" 11th November, '91. The Secretary decides that the binding should not be given to Mr. Langlais. The question of supplies, although not mentioned in the contract, is optional ; but the intention of the Government is *to deal liberally with J. A. Langlais.*"

What a fine expression !

The intention of the Government is *to deal liberally with J. A. Langlais.* Most certainly !

To pay, or cause to be paid, to a man the sum of \$85,000 in fifteen days ! That is surely *liberal dealing*.

To give a gentleman two letters of credit for **\$30,000** each ; **\$60,000** in one day !

To buy 50,000 copies of a book, at **\$25,000** !

To buy 10,000 copies, English version, of the same book, at \$5,000 !

That is what you may call *dealing liberally (user liberelement)* with a man !

Those ex-ministers banged creation !

Here is what the *Globe*, the leading Liberal organ of the Dominion, said concerning the Langlais scandals:

"The revelations made before the new Royal Commission at Quebec, demand a prompt explanation from those who are immediately implicated. The *Canadien* and the *Patrie*, two papers friendly to Mr. Mercier, give the following explanations: Mr. Mercier, in February, 1891, made an arrangement with a bookseller, named Langlais, for the purchase of a certain book and a large quantity of paper.

"Langlais received then and there \$85,000 by letters of credit that were discounted by him. The 23rd February he drew by cheque a sum of \$55,000, product of two letters of credit for \$60,000; and he gave \$25,000 to Ernest Pacaud, who, on the 24th February, handed them into the Jacques-Cartier Bank, to Mr. Mercier's credit. Mr. Mercier was then speaking in the County of Richelieu. Mr. J. A. Mercier, his brother, was authorized to look after his business, and he drew the \$25,000 from the Jacques-Cartier Bank and handed them to Mr. C. A. Geoffrion, who acknowledged having received them. Mr. Geoffrion was the treasurer of the Liberal electoral fund in the district of Montreal. According to the evidence, it appears that no Order-in-Council had been passed authorizing the contract with Langlais, that there is no mention of the contract in the books of the Executive Council, and that the arrangement was made privately by Mr. Mercier and Mr. Langlais. But in leaving aside these irregularities, the fact that strikes at first sight is that \$25,000 *public money seems to have been stolen and turned over afterwards to the electoral fund of the Liberal party.*

"For the moment the *Globe* is disposed to await the explanations of the accused and until the day that all the facts shall be placed before the country. But it is forced to state to-day that it will denounce the misdeeds of its friends with as much energy as it has denounced the faults of the Ottawa Tories. The duty of every honest man, under these painful and shameful circumstances, is to condemn and punish the public robbers."

It was proven, at Quebec, before the Royal Commission:

That the Langlais contracts were given without an Order-in-Council;

That despite the Langlais contract, for which \$60,000 had been paid, the *clique* continued to buy stationery from other dealers;

That purchases of stationery were made from other dealers, since the date of the Langlais contract, to the value of \$12,000 to \$15,000;

That despite the \$60,000 paid to Langlais, everything purchased in his establishment was paid for again;

That, even on one occasion, Mr. Duhamel, Commissioner of Crown Lands, caused a fresh advance of \$500 to be paid Langlais;

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That the discounting of the two Langlais letters of credit gave \$56,772.83 ;

That out of that sum Mr. Baptiste Langlais only got \$7,272.83 ;

That \$24,500 went to the toll-collector, Ernest Pacaud.

That \$25,000 went to Montreal to swell the corruption fund of the Liberal party for the Federal elections, as the following declaration of Mr. Geoffrion proves :—that is to say they robbed the Provincial Treasury to fight Mr. Laurier's election battle.

There you have, in short space, and in all its nakedness, the \$60,000 Langlais stationery scandal.

If the Liberals had remained in power in 1892, these \$60,000 would have been paid by the Caisse d'Economie to Mr. J. A. Langlais who had discounted the two letters of credit for \$30,000 each.

The rate payers of the Province of Quebec may be sure of one thing, if the *clique* came back to power, after the 11th of May next, one of the first things that Mr. Pacaud and Mr. Langlais would do, in concert with their friends Gilbert Déchène & Co., would be to secure payment from the Treasury—that is from the ratepayers—of the \$60,000, which the Conservative Government, composed of honest men, refused and will always refuse to pay.

THE WHELAN SCANDAL.

On several occasions the Conservative press accused the Liberal crowd of having made use of Mr. Whelan to get hands on the public money. This gentleman was a contractor; he had claims; and casks of wine and exorbitant commissions, for election and personal purposes, were extorted from him. Naturally, in the end, the country paid for all this.

In vain we laid charges and asked for investigations. Nothing resulted. Mr. Mercier and the clique were silent, or else gagged some of their accusers.

However, on the 10th November, 1891, the Toronto *Empire* published a despatch which caused a sensation; it was as follows :—

"Montreal, 10th November.—The *Empire's* correspondent has several times alluded to the enormous sums that Hon. Mr. Mercier, his Ministers and his political friends, for four years past, drew out of Mr. John P. Whelan, the wealthy contractor for the Quebec Court House. And still, it was only since a day or two ago that he is in a position to fully understand the extent of this robbery, the greatest one of all. As the *Empire* and other Conservative papers left it to be understood, the total sums thus extorted

by the Quebec Liberal leaders amounted to \$67,000. Yet, large as that figure may seem to those who do not know the 'inside,' and who are not posted in the stealing capacities of the Quebec clique, a sum far higher than the one which Pacaud extracted from the Provincial treasury—let us say the word—was stolen from the public in the building undertaking above mentioned.

"This morning the *Minerve* publishes this at the head of its page of general articles:—

"Is it true that Mr. J. P. Whelan paid \$113,000 to the big guns of the Liberal party from his contract for the Quebec Court House?

"This question has been so often asked, always without obtaining a satisfactory answer, that your correspondent started out, determined to learn the truth, and only the truth, regarding this matter, which interests and concerns not only the people of our Province, but the citizens of the whole Dominion. While the honorable judges of the Royal Commission were studying the scandalous details of the Baie des Chaleurs Railway transaction, and the majority of the electors consoled themselves in the hope that the country had got to the bottom of the trickery and rottenness of the Mercier-Langelier-Pacaud administration, the *Empire*, which has ever been in the vanguard, denouncing the corrupt actions of the Roman Count, that *Empire* is to-day in a position to throw full light on another scandal, the most shameful, perhaps, of all the scandals that have become known to the public during the few years of the National administration in the Province of Quebec.

"The following is a detailed and authentic account of the sums paid by Mr. John P. Whelan to members of the Mercier and Laurier party, for personal and political purposes. These sums, it goes without saying, were paid out while the contractor was building the edifice in question or since the Legislature authorized his claim for extra works:

Hon. H. Mercier.....	\$13,750
" H. Mercier and C. A. Beausoleil, M.P.....	23,500
" H. Mercier and Ernest Pacaud.....	17,000
Achille Carrier, M.P.P. for Gaspé.....	2,550
Hon. C. Langelier.....	2,500
" P. Garneau and others.....	4,950
" A. Turcotte, ex-Attorney-General.....	2,650
Law firm of Mr. Prefontaine, M.P., of which Hon. Robidoux was a member.....	18,500
Hon. Jas. McShane, mayor of Montreal.....	7,100
Different Liberals.....	8,000
Federal elections (1887).....	14,500
Grand total.....	\$115,000

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"We now see that Pacaud had a precedent to follow, when, in concert with his masters, the Quebec ministers, he systematically pillaged the Provincial Treasury to help Mr. Laurier in the elections of 1891; an equally audacious and criminal operation having been successfully carried on in 1887.

"In order to avoid any chance of error on the subject, the *Empire* adds the following details :

Paid to Perreault.....	\$5,000
" Matthew Hearn, candidate in Quebec West	1,000
" H. J. Cloran, Montreal Centre.....	8,600
" Mercier (per D. F.).....	2,500
" Senator Pelletier.....	2,500
Making a total of.....	\$14,600

which the Quebec gang wrenched from Mr. Whelan to fight the battles of Mr. Laurier and of Riel in 1887. The perfectly authentic information that the *Empire's* correspondent possesses, shows us that the sum of \$8,000 which appears in the first of the above lists, was divided amongst the small fry of the party; that, at least, this sum served to personally and politically help them. The names, moreover, are in the *Empire's* possession, and can be had at a moment's notice. We may, however, say without further ceremony, that \$2,500 went to secure the election of Mr. Charles Champagne, in Hochelaga, and that \$650 were given to Mr. F. X. Lemieux, candidate in Levis.

The second trip taken by the *Empire's* correspondent was to interview Mr. J. P. Whelan himself. It would be hard to imagine a man more surprised than was the celebrated contractor, when he saw the foregoing figures set down before his eyes, and when he was asked if they were correct and if he would give any additional information.

"Where, under heaven! did you get your hand on all this?" was his first exclamation when he had sufficiently revived from the shock to speak. Then, seeing it was impossible for him to get out of it, he consented to be interviewed, and the following dialogue took place :

Are the figures I have just shown you correct ?

Yes. I am sorry to have to admit that they are substantially correct.

Regarding large sums, like the \$13,750 for Hon. Mr. Mercier, the \$23,500 for the same and his law-partner, Mr. Beausoleil, M.P., and the \$16,000 to Mercier and Pacaud, is it possible that you gave so much money to these men ?

It is, alas! only too true.

Was that money used for elections ?

Yes, and for personal ends.

What compensation could it be supposed that you could receive from Pacaud, Beausoleil, Charles Langelier and Carrier ?

They all acted as agents to help me with the Government. Langelier was not a minister at that time.

Tell me now, Mr. Whelan, about that sum of \$7,100 that you are supposed to have given Hon. James McShane. You must be aware that our immaculate mayor one day called Sir Charles Tupper a highway robber, and your reply cannot fail to create a special interest amongst the people of Montreal.

Well, that sum was paid for electioneering purposes, partly to himself personally and partly to his order. (In all justice to Mr. McShane, although this may not place the ex-Minister of Public Works in any better light before the country, the *Empire's* correspondent should say that \$3,000 of the above mentioned sum were paid to Mr. Mercier himself, in the Government offices, on St. Gabriel street. All the same, Mr. McShane knew the long and the short of the transaction.)

Is it not a known fact, Mr. Whelan, that when Mr. McShane was Minister of Public Works, he asked you to subscribe \$20,000 to the election fund that he had the spending of, giving you to understand that a pending claim that you had against the Ross-Taillon Government would be settled ?

Yes, it is true, and when I refused, he said : " Whelan, you'll regret this, the half of that sum was intended for Mr. Mercier." I replied that if Mr. Mercier was in need of money he could ask me for it himself, that we were not strangers to each other ; moreover, he had often asked me for some in the past.

Did you never hear any more about that affair ?

No. McShane and his Montreal friends often reproached me with my refusal of the \$20,000 and the first minister, Mercier, who, apparently, did not believe that McShane had not received the haul, asked me afterwards if I had given that amount, or part of it to Mr. McShane.

We will say a word now about the \$14,500 that the gang seems to have extorted from you for the Federal elections of 1887. Be good enough to throw a little light on the item of \$5,000 for Perreault, and to tell me who this Perreault is ?

Louis Perreault, printer, to whom I gave my note for \$5,500, as ever, for election purposes. Another well-known contractor had agreed to pay a part of it ; but, finally, he refused, and when the note fell due I had to

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pay it, and I might add that I paid it in accordance with Mr. Mercier's instructions. The latter had heard, one day, that a certain note had not been paid, and supposing for certain that it was the Perreault affair, he came to blame me. It was then that I replied to him: "Mr. Mercier, you err, the Perreault note is settled, and the unpaid one is one of \$2,500 intended to help Mr. Champagne's election in Hochelaga." This note was, notwithstanding, paid a short time afterwards, and with interest included it formed the sum of \$2,668.

Is there anything special in the payment of the \$3,600 for Montreal Centre?

No, except that I was never even thanked for having helped to fight my old friend Curran, who, thank God, gratified us with a gigantic defeat. I quarrelled with him on the Riel question, but we are now great friends, and I intend to remain so.

Continuing the interview, Mr. Whelan said that the first sum of \$2,500 on the list of Federal election expenses consisted of a note given by Mr. D. Ford to Mr. Mercier, endorsed by the Honorable Messrs. Mercier, Shehyn and Garneau, discounted by a boot and shoe merchant well known in Quebec, and paid by Mr. Whelan to the Banque Nationale.

And the second sum of \$2,500?

It is cash given to Senator Pelletier in two sums, \$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively.

Could you tell me what elections were going on when Mr. McShane put his fingers on the nugget that we referred to?

I think that part of that nugget was intended for the bye-elections going on in the counties of Laprairie and Ottawa.

Now, Mr. Whelan, I am going to ask you a very delicate question. Although you are of Irish origin, you have the Scotch cuteness well developed. Tell me, did you expect to see the Ross Government go out of power?

Yes, I expected nothing else; but what are you getting at?

Is it not an admitted fact that in August, 1886, in presence of two other persons, Mr. Mercier promised you to settle your claim when he got into power, and that, there and then, he asked you for a certain sum to help him to carry the elections?

"The contractor closed his eyes for a moment and then replied:—

"Yes, he did that and a bargain was struck, but I decline to tell you the nature of it."

"Frightened by the effect of these declarations, Mr. Mercier pretended to sue Mr. Whelan and certain journalists, but it was only a flash in the pan.

"He remained under the shadow of these accusations.

"Later on, the Royal Commission, composed of Messrs. Mathieu, McMaster and Masson, went to Mr. Whelan and held a sworn investigation of the facts related above.

"The questions touched upon the items, the facts and the circumstances which preceded, accompanied or followed the gifts, loans, advances or payments of the following sums by John Patrick Whelan, or by the firm of Whelan & Ford, or by Patrick Ford, to wit :

1. To Hon. Honoré Mercier, formerly Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, \$13,750.

2. To the said Hon. Honoré Mercier and to C. A. Beausoleil, M.P., \$23,500.

3. To the said Hon. Honoré Mercier and to Ernest Pacaud, journalist, of Quebec, \$17,700.

4. To Achille Carrier, M.P.P., \$4,580.

5. To Hon. C. Langelier, formerly Provincial Secretary, \$2,500.

6. To Hon. Pierre Garneau, \$4,950.

7. To Hon. Arthur Turcotte, formerly Attorney-General for the Province of Quebec, \$2,659.

8. To R. Prefontaine, M.P. and his partners, \$18,500.

9. To Hon. James McShane, M.P.P., \$7,100.

10. To said Hon. Honoré Mercier, \$2,500.

11. To Hon. C. A. P. Pelletier, Senator, \$2,500.

12. To Ernest Pacaud, aforementioned, \$10,000.

13. To Ernest Pacaud, aforementioned, \$5,000.

"At the opening of the session, Mr. Guerin, made an objection. He disputed the right of the Commissioners to question Mr. Whelan under the circumstances.

Judge Mathieu replied to him : "We will hear Mr. Whelan anyway, and if you get a court of justice to decide that we have no right to question him, we will not consider his evidence in our report."

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Mr. Whelan is, therefore, ordered to reply to the questions.

First question.—It is said that you had paid \$13,750, for some years back, to Mr. Mercier. Is that true?

Mr. Whelan, referring to his papers, answered: Your figures are not quite exact. I paid \$16,840 to Mr. Mercier, from the month of June, 1886, to the month of September of the same year.

Q. Under what circumstances did you pay that sum?

A. I met Mr. Mercier one day in Quebec. He said, "I need money." I gave him \$350; I think this was in the month of June, 1886. A few days later I again gave him \$500.

Q. Why did you give that money; did Mr. Mercier tell you that he was sure of coming into power?

A. He left me to understand it.

Q. Did you pay any other sums?

A. In the month of October, 1886, I gave Mr. Mercier \$4,000, in a room in the rear of the St. Lawrence Hall.

Q. Were you a Government contractor then?

A. Yes.

Q. What reasons were given for asking that money of you?

A. I was told that if I were *liberal* enough I would be well treated by the Government. (This was the 30th October, 1886.) Hon Mr. Mercier asked me for \$20,000 to \$25,000, but I only gave \$10,000.

Q. Why did you give so much money?

A. Once more, I tell you that I was assured that I would be well treated if Mr. Mercier came into power.

Q. These \$10,000, were they returned to you?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. You had a claim at that time against the Government?

A. Yes, and I always understood that the amount that I gave for the Liberal election fund had had a great weight afterwards in the settlement of that claim. For the Federal elections in Chambly, in 1886, I subscribed \$1,000 to the Liberal fund.

The 26th September, 1886, I gave Mr. Mercier \$1,000. A few days after I gave Mr. Beausoleil \$1,000. In October of the same year I gave Mr. Mercier \$500.

"The 26th October, I gave another large sum.

Then came the "smallgifts" of \$50 to \$200.

"In December, 1886, I again gave \$500 to \$800.

Q. Were the elections over then?

A. Yes. Mr. Beausoleil told me it was a good investment.

Q. How much did you pay Mr. Beausoleil?

A. On the question of the contract for the Quebec Court House, I had to pay Mr. Mercier and Mr. Beausoleil, \$15,000 first, and \$6,000 afterwards. Perhaps I paid other amounts.

"The 22nd October, 1886, I paid \$700 to Mr. Pacaud in front of the Post Office.

"Mr. Whelan continuing his evidence, said: the 21st December, 1886, I met Mr. Ernest Pacaud. He said to me: 'I am hard up, I want some money.' I gave him \$20. (Laughter). In the month of January, 1888, I gave \$100 to Mr. Pacaud, who appeared to be more hard up than ever. In the month of February, 1890, I was more generous, and I gave \$10,000 to Mr. Pacaud. This time, it seems, it was for election purposes.

Q. Do you know what Mr. Pacaud did with the \$10,000?

A. No.

Q. Did you speak to Mr. Mercier about the settling of your claim?

A. No; I never spoke to him personally about it.

Mr. Macmaster.—Did you tell Mr. Mercier that you paid \$10,000 to Mr. Pacaud?

No; but I saw the telegram addressed by Mr. Pacaud to Mr. Mercier telling him that I had given \$10,000. Mr. Pacaud came afterwards to ask me for \$5,000 but I refused. Mr. Pacaud informed Mr. Mercier of my refusal.

Q. Is it true that you gave \$2,500 to Mr. Carrier?

A. The figure is not exact. I gave \$2,650 to Mr. Achille Carrier. Mr. Carrier came to me, one day, and told me that he was *broke*. I gave him \$500.

"The 6th February, 1889, I gave him \$1,500. I afterwards gave him other small sums.

"I gave \$3,000 to Hon. C. Langelier.

Q. Did you pay anything to Hon. Mr. Garneau?

A. I firstly gave Mr. P. Garneau \$1,500, in the month of November, '886, for election expenses in Quebec county.

"The balance was paid to Mr. Amyot.

"I also gave \$3,000 to the firm of Beaudet, Lefebvre & Garneau.

Q. Is Mr. Garneau, a member of that firm, related to Hon. P. Garneau?

A. He is his cousin.

"In 1888 I paid firstly \$400 and then \$2,000 for Mr. Turcotte's election in Three Rivers. The amount should reach \$2,600.

"I paid \$18,500 to Mr. Prefontaine for professional services, and also in the hope of securing his influence with the Quebec Government in getting my claim settled.

"In July, 1887, I paid \$2,500 to Hon. James McShane, then Minister of Public Works. I afterwards gave him \$500 for the St. Patrick's Day banquet.

"Mr. McShane came to me and asked me for \$3,000 for Mr. Mercier. I had not the required amount. Mr. James Baxter, who was present, went out for a few minutes, and came back with the \$3,000. I don't know to whom the money was given, but Mr. Baxter told me later on that he had given the \$3,000 to Mr. Mercier himself.

"I also gave \$2,500 to Hon. Senator Pelletier for election purposes.

Q. Could you produce the orders, cheques, telegrams, letters, etc., regarding the money paid, through Mr. McShane, to Mr. Mercier?

A. When Mr. Mercier came back from Europe, he sent for me to go to his office, and he told me that "things went bad with McShane," and he asked me to give him all his papers, seeing that grave accusations were launched against him. I gave him these papers, and I saw him myself place them in his safe, in his house on St. Denis street. It was understood that these papers were to be destroyed. I never saw them since.

Q. Did you consider these papers to be compromising?

A. They must have been compromising for Mr. Mercier and Mr. McShane.

"Mr. Whelan's examination being closed, an examination that unveiled a host of astonishing facts, and that we have been able to reproduce, a scene took place that was amusing for the Conservatives and which caused the handful of Liberals present to smile. Mr. Cloran wished to open his heart and show his indignation. Speaking to Mr. Whelan, he said: According to your evidence you paid large sums, but did Mr. Mercier or any one of his colleagues tell you that in giving that money your claim would be settled?"

"As Mr. Whelan, through delicacy, no doubt, and not wishing to betray 'these gentlemen,' with whom he had had former relations, hesitated to answer, Mr. Cloran repeated the question and insisted on an answer. Mr. Whelan, pushed to the wall, arose and said: 'You absolutely want me to speak, well! so much the worse, I will speak, and in answer to your question I say: Yes; one day I met Mr. Mercier, in the elevator of a large building in this city. He said to me: 'Well! Whelan, your affair is not settled yet?' 'No,' I replied. Then he said: 'Pay what we asked you and all will be correct, we will settle your affair.'"

"Since that time, added Mr. Whelan, I subscribed largely.

"This answer had the effect of a sledge-hammer blow on Mr. Cloran's head. The boiling young advocate became more audacious and asked Mr. Whelan if he had not paid money to persons other than those he had mentioned.

A discussion then followed, and after a few minutes it was decided that Mr. Whelan should prepare a list of the persons who had received money, from the 27th January, 1887, to the month of December, 1891.

"Addressing Mr. Cloran, Mr. Bisailon said: You have only to limit yourself. We limited ourselves to a few names, but since you wish it, we will go further.

Mr. Cloran—It was said that I had received money from Mr. Whelan. I defy anyone to prove it.

Mr. Whelan—I subscribed 2 to \$8,000 for your election.

Mr. Cloran—I did not get that money personally.

Mr. Whelan—That matters little. You profited by that money, and you knew well who furnished it."

The perusal of these two extracts suffices to show that Mr. Whelan was a splendid cat's paw for the *Clique* to extract money from the treasury.

THE TOLL GATE

was an institution in the days of the "clique."

To secure the payment of its subsidies the Temiscouata Company had to pay to Mr. Pacaud over **\$25,000**.

To obtain a desistment in appeal, Mr. W. Fraser had to pay to Mr. Pacaud **\$2,000**.

To obtain the payment of certain subsidies, Mr. Armstrong had to pay to Mr. Pacaud **\$5,000**.

To obtain the settlement of a claim, that was not due, Mr. Lockwood had to pay to Mr. Pacaud **\$5,000**.

To obtain the sale of his *Sylviculteur*, Mr. Langlais had to pay to Mr. Pacaud, **\$11,000**.

To obtain the monopoly of the stationery supplying, Mr. Langlais had to pay to Messrs. Pacaud and Mercier, **\$50,000**.

To obtain the settlement of a claim that was not due, Mr. Armstrong had to pay to Mr. Pacaud, **\$100,000**.

To obtain, he says, the maintaining of an item of the budget in his favor, Mr. Whelan had to pay to Mr. Pacaud and Mr. Tarte, **\$15,000**.

To obtain the sale of an edition of the Municipal Code, Mr. Eusèbe Senecal had to pay to Mr. Lomer Gouin, Mr. Mercier's son-in-law, **\$1,700**.

To obtain the sale of a collection of coins, Mr. Breton had to pay to Mr. Geoffrion, treasurer of the Liberal party, **\$1,500**.

We would never end were we to go on enumerating the cases in which the TOLL-GATE was used.

If the electors of Quebec desire to have that toll-gate set up again, and that the payment of tribute to the deity "Boodle" should recommence, they have only to return to power Messrs. Marchand, Déchène, Turgeon, Carrier & Co.!

HOW THE LIBERALS VOTED

When They Were in Power.

They Approved of the Expenses and the Loans.

We have several times stated that the majority of representatives in the Liberal Opposition, who cry out so loudly to-day against taxes and loans, were the pillars of the Administration which, through its lavish expenditure and its extravagant policy, rendered necessary the new taxes and created the floating debt for which loans had to be made.

We will now recall certain motions and certain votes to prove that the Déchènes, the Turgeons, the Gladus, the Pinaults, the Bernatchezs, the Chêneverts, the Girards, the Lemieuxs, the Lalibertés, the Parents, the Shehyns, the Robidoux, the Tessiers, are all responsible for that orgie of expenditure, and for the burden of debt inflicted on the people by the Mercier Administration.

The 29th December, 1890, Mr. Nantel, then only member for Terrebonne, moved the following amendment:

"That all the words after 'That' to the end of the question, be erased, and that they be replaced by the following: This House is prepared to vote the supplies to Her Majesty, but it regrets that in the space of less than four years, the Government, the principal members of which energetically declaim against the amount of expenses of the previous Governments, has carried the ordinary expenses of administration for the term of 1889-90 to the sum of \$3,881,672.95, say, a difference of \$849,065.70 from the ordinary expenses of administration for the term of 1885-86;

"That this difference grows still larger with the sum of \$206,786.15 paid in 1889-90 for special expenses really imputable to the revenues, and which constitute, in the course of three terms alone, a total increase of ordinary expenses of \$1,055,851.85 in a budget of scarcely four millions of dollars;

"That this increase of expenses, unparalleled in our financial history, neither accords with the requirements of the public service, nor with our regular revenue, nor with the advancement of the Province, which can scarcely be perceived by the farming class, scattered more than ever through emigration to the United States, and which is at a standstill in the colonizing of the public domain;

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"That this increase of expenses endangers still more our political institutions, and threatens the credit of the Province, *which, to equalize its ordinary budget, is obliged to have recourse to foreign loans, and to tax different important industries*, such as mines and the timber trade, one of the principal elements of national labor and of public prosperity ;

"That this improvident policy is calculated to check the development of the country, to impoverish its inhabitants already responsible for the Federal debt of Canada and the municipal, school and parochial debts, and that eventually this accumulation of public obligations must lead the Provincial administration into most serious financial extremities."

And the amendment was voted on, the House divided ; and the names being called, they were as follows :

Yeas.— Messrs. Beauchamp, Bédard, Blanchet, Duplessis, England, Grenier, Hall, Leblanc, Lessard, Marion, McIntosh, Nantel, Normand, Owens, Robertson.

Nays.— Messrs. Bazinet, Béland, Bernatchez, Brunet, Cardin, Carrier, Chénevert, Côté, Déchène, Desmarais, Duhamel, Fitzpatrick, Girard, Gosselin, Laliberté, Lalonde, Langelier, Lemieux, Lovell, McShane, Marcotte, Mercier, Monette, Morin, Parent, Pinault, Pouliot, Rinfret, Robidoux, Rocheleau, Shehyn, Ste. Marie, Tessier (Portneuf), Turgeon, Watts.

"Thus the motion was decided in the negative. (Journals of the Legislative Assembly, 1890, vol. xxv., p. 321).

In voting against this amendment the Liberal members voted their approval of the unlimited increase of expenses, of the recourse to the loan system for the purpose of making up the deficits, the imposition of taxes rendered, before hand, inevitable.

The 23rd December, 1890, Mr. Milton McDonald, member for Bagot, moved this other amendment :

That all the words after "That," to the end of the question, be erased and that they be replaced by the following words :

"This House declares itself ready to favor a railway policy in accord with the means of the Province, the needs of agriculture and the advancement of colonization ;

"But considering that the floating debt is to-day \$6,762,033.86 ;

"Considering that the consolidated debt of the Province is actually \$21,448,666.67 ;

"Considering that in June, 1886, the floating debt was only \$2,256,222.88 ;

"Considering that at that time the consolidated debt was only \$18,283,853.54 ;

"Considering that at that date the Prime Minister of the present Government declared, regarding certain resolutions before the House, concerning the granting of new subsidies to assist in the construction of railways, in a motion of want of confidence directed against the Government of the day, that which follows :

"That it is evident that in contracting new obligations which the Government wishes to impose on the Province, the latter will be forced, in the very near future, to make new loans of six to seven millions, which would carry our consolidated debt to about twenty-five millions, and would augment our interests and our annual deficits by from three to four hundred thousand dollars."

"Considering that the party of which the honorable Prime Minister is leader had endorsed that policy ;

"Considering that, since that date of the month of June, 1886, namely, in the month of July, 1888, fresh resolutions, granting subsidies to certain railways, amounting to over three millions and a half, were voted by this House ;

"Considering that the actual floating debt is \$6,762,033.86.

"Considering that the actual consolidated debt is \$21,448,666.67, which constitutes a total debt of \$28,210,700.53, without taking into account the new undertakings mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

"Considering that, from the month of April, 1885, the honorable Prime Minister, in a motion of want of confidence, moved against the Ross Government, in the Legislative Assembly, affirmed that the Province was, from that time, exposed to financial disaster, which would lead it to direct taxation or to bankruptcy ;

"This House regrets to state, that, in spite of the present serious state of our finances, the Government persists in *augmenting all the ordinary expenses* of the administration, to such a degree that we can foresee no effective way to put its policy into practice without having recourse to *too heavy taxation on certain special industries, and on the people in general.*"

And the amendment was put to the vote ; the House divided ; the names were called, and they are as follows :

Yeas—Messrs. Beauchamp, Bédard, Blanchet, Desjardins, Duplessis, England, Grenier, Hall, Johnson, McDonald, McIntosh, Marion, Martin, Nantel, Normand, Owens, Poupore, Robertson, Spencer and Villeneuve.

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Nays—Messrs. Bazinet, Béland, Bernatchez, Bisson, Boyer, Brunet, Cameron, Cardin, Carrier, Chênevert, Côté, Déchène, DeGrosbois, Desmarais, Duhamel, Fitzpatrick, Gosselin, Laliberté, Lalonde, Langelier, Lovell, McShane, Marcotte, Mercier, Monette, Parent, Pinault, Pouliot, Rainville, Rinfret, Robidoux, Rocheleau, Rochon, Shehyn, Ste. Marie, Tessier (Portneuf), Tessier (Rimouski), Turgeon and Watts. (Journals of the Legislative Assembly, for 1890, Vol. XXV., p. 246).

In voting against this amendment the Liberal members voted, equally, their approval of the augmentation of the debt, the increase of expenditure and the final recourse to new taxation.

And it is the members who gave such votes who shout to-day against a Government *which has diminished the ordinary expenses* by over \$800,000!

We need not multiply citations, but we feel it our duty to give another sample of the manner in which these gentlemen vote.

The Liberal press and speakers make a great noise about some Conservative lawyers' fees, which they consider far too high. Yet, these law accounts are for professional services really rendered to the Province in cases that concerned it.

But just think of the famous bill of \$3,000 paid by the Mercier Government to Mr. François Langelier for having said nothing in an affair that in no way concerned this Province. Still those Liberal members voted, in 1889, their approval of that account. Here is an extract from the Journals of the House, which proves this in a most positive manner:

"The House, according to order, continues the adjourned debate on the amendment moved, to-day, on the question concerning,—That the Speaker do now leave the chair (in order that the House may again resolve itself into a Committee of Supplies), which amendment states that all the words after 'That,' to the end of the question, be erased and that they be replaced by the following words:

"This House is prepared to vote the Supplies to Her Majesty, but it regrets that the Government has paid to Mr. Frs. Langelier, Q.C., the following account, namely:

QUEBEC, 11th January, 1889.

"The Government of Quebec,

Dr. to Honorable F. Langelier, Q.C.

"In the matter of the crossing of the Mount Pembina branch of the Pacific Railway by the Red River Valley Railway.

" 1888, Nov. 2nd.—Interview with Hon. Mr. Mercier and discussion of the Constitutional Question.....	\$ 50.00
" Nov. 3rd.—Interview with Hon. Mr. Mercier and discussion of the Constitutional Question.....	50 00
" Nov. 4th to 9th—Fees for preparing the case. Interviews with Hon. Mr. Mercier, correspondence with Hon. Mr. Mowat, researches of authorities, correspondence with Ottawa agent, etc.....	2,000.00
" Nov. 19th to 25th.—Trip to Ottawa for the pleading of the case	600.00
" Expenses of trip and outlay	300.00
	\$3,000.00

" Approved this 12th January, 1888, to be charged to general sundries.

(Signed) HONORÉ MERCIER,

Prime Minister.

" Moreover as our Province had no interest in the matter in question, and seeing that the account is exorbitant; the documents laid before this House show :

" 1st. That Mr. Langelier had to busy himself with this case only from the 2nd November to the 25th of the same month.

" 2nd. That for this case he was only obliged to be absent from his office from the 19th to the 25th of the same month.

" 3rd. That he received the *case* fully prepared by Hon. Mr. Mowat.

" 4th. That he played the part of a dummy before the Supreme Court, although that Court offered to hear him, to which offer he replied that he had nothing to say.

" 5th. That, apart from a little study that he may have given the question, all his work consisted in writing a few letters to the Hon. Prime Minister of this Province, letters in which he specially labors to review the work of others.

" 6th. This House is of opinion that instead of being represented by Mr. François Langelier before the Supreme Court, in a case between the Province of Manitoba and the Pacific Railway, the Government would have done better to have used for colonization and agriculture the sum of \$3,000 paid to Mr. Langelier for pretended professional services that were of no use to the Province."

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And the amendment being put to the vote, the House divided; and the names being called, they were as follows:

Yeas.—Messrs. Baldwin, Beauchamp, Blanchet, Bourbonnais, Casgrain, Desjardins, Duplessis, Faucher de Saint Maurice, Flynn, Hall, Lapointe, Leblanc, Legris, Lynch, Martin (Bonaventure), McIntosh, Nantel, Owens, Picard, Spencer, Taillon and Tourigny.

Nays.—Messrs. Basinet, Bernatchez, Bisson, Boyer, Cardin, Champagne, David, Déchène (l'Islet), DeGrosbois, Dumais, Forest, Gagnon, Gladu, Goyette, Lafontaine, Laliberté, Lareau, Lemieux, Lussier, McShane, Morin, Murphy, Pilon, Rinfret, Robidoux, Rocheleau, Rochon, Shehyn, Sylvestre, Tessier, Trudel and Turcotte. (Journals of the Legislative Assembly, 1889, p. 364.)

THE HARBINGERS OF TAXATION.

Opinions of Messrs. Mercier, Shehyn, etc.

We have just shown how the Liberal members voted for the increase of expenses and the increase of the debt. It may be opportune to here recall a few statements of their leaders, which were simply the announcement of coming taxation. Here are extracts from speeches delivered during the second session of 1890 by Mr. Mercier and Mr. Shehyn.

MR. MERCIER ON TAXATION.

'I am sure that if I were before an audience outside of this House before the people, I would be understood when I say to the citizens of this Province: 'We ask to *impose new burdens upon you* in order to develop your resources, to allow of your transporting your produce more easily and more economically to the large markets. It is true *you will pay more taxes* in certain respects, but for each cent that you give you will receive twenty-five. I appeal to your patriotism, and I ask you to support the Government in this undertaking.' The people would reply: 'Proceed, go ahead without fear. The moment the money is spent in the public interest you need not fear; we are sufficiently intelligent to understand you, and sufficiently patriotic to support you.''' (Debates of the Legislature, 54 Vic., 1890, p. 489.)

MR. SHEHYN AND TAXATION.

"I admit that it becomes more and more difficult to limit the cost of the general administration, on account of the increase of the interest, and because of the extension of the Public Works operations, and of others that

correspond with the increase in the population. New demands are constantly arising, and moreover, it is almost impossible to resist the pressure brought to bear on the Government by the people who desire a generous policy, and one in harmony with the requirements of the country. However, *let it be well remembered that it is impossible, with the fruits alone of our ordinary resources, to meet the exigencies and the needs which such a policy must necessitate.* The country and the House are in favor of a vigorous policy tending to hasten the development of our resources, but we must not forget that these things cannot be done *without certain sacrifices* on the part of those who will profit by that policy. After that, let no one come and blame us if the expenditure is not as restricted as it might be, for it happens often enough that they who contribute a large share in the augmentation of the expenses, are often the first, once their object is gained, to forget that which they preached. (Debates of the Legislature, 54 Vict., 1890, p. 234.)

"We must not have any illusions, it is impossible to help large works of public interest, the result of which is the assurance of a greater material progress, without that the country be called upon to *make certain sacrifices*....

"Once more, I may be allowed to say, as I have already stated under many circumstances, that the public is in favor of an *energetic and vigorous* policy, but that such a policy cannot be worked *without entailing* some sacrifices on its side. Thus, in granting subsidies to railways, in building iron bridges, in subsidizing freely the educational cause, in comforting the afflicted, in helping agriculture and colonization, in constructing new buildings, the utility of which cannot be questioned, in making improvements all over the Province, we only continue the policy sanctioned by previous Legislatures and necessitated by the real needs of the country. Such a policy cannot be put into practice without the ways and means.

"The country must understand, as it has already, for that matter, understood, that to ameliorate its condition *must cost it something*." (Debates of the Legislature, 54 Vict., 1890, p. 249.)

"*We have increased the debt*, that is beyond a doubt, but it is equally well known that if we have to-day a floating debt sufficiently large, the reason for it is easy to find, or in other words, its origin. The railway policy plays a large part in it; a policy looked upon by all the Province as almost indispensable. Let it be well remembered that it is impossible to execute such extensive works *without that it costs something*. If the country wants railways—and it does want them—it *must submit to sacrifices for their construction*. And the sacrifices which such a policy demands are nothing compared to the advantages that must flow from it, since it should contribute so powerfully to the development and the augmentation of our national wealth" (Debates of the Legislature, 54 Vict., 1890, p. 509).

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MR. LEMIEUX'S QUESTION.

The following question by Mr. Lemieux, and the answer by Mr. Charles Langelier, are also very significant. It was the land tax that was beginning to show its horns.

"By Mr. Lemieux—In 1880, what was the total value of the taxable property in the Province of Quebec, according to the evaluation roll transmitted, according to the law to the Provincial Secretary?

"Answer by Hon. Mr. Langelier—According to the reports of my department the following appears:

\$180,197,001 for rural municipalities, save 13 municipalities that did not send in their reports.

\$ 83,014,995 for the cities of Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers.

\$263,211,996 total for the Province.

"By Mr. Lemieux—In 1889-90, what was the total value of the taxable property in the Province of Quebec, according to the evaluation roll transmitted, according to the law, to the Provincial Secretary?

"Answer by Hon. Mr. Langelier—\$172, 541,848 for the rural municipalities, except 227 municipalities that have not sent in their reports. The cities of Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers have not sent in any reports." (Journals of the Legislative Assembly, 1890, vol. xxv., p. 38.)

THE CROWNING WORK.

A Beneficent and Triumphant Session

That the Flynn Government Held for the People of the Province.

We have studied the work done by the Conservative Government since its return to power in 1891, and the manner in which it repaired the ruins left by the preceding Administration.

We have brought the benefits of that Conservative Administration under the eyes of the people, the restoration of the finances, the impetus given to agriculture, the order and honest working re-established in every branch of the public service. It now remains for us to take a glance at

what may be called the crowning work of the present Government. We refer to the last session of the Legislature, which every one agrees in proclaiming to be one of the finest and most fruitful ever held since Confederation.

During that session Hon. Mr. Flynn developed and prepared all the sections of his programme, and did so with an ability, a broad-mindedness and a success which challenged the admiration even of his adversaries.

No other session has been as beneficial to the people of the Province.

We will take a bird's-eye view of the different measures that marked that session, and that will remain as luminous pages in the statutes of the Province.

THE HOMESTEAD LAW.

The Thirty Months Reservation Abolished.

Protection for Colonists.

One of the best and most beneficent laws, that the Government passed during last session, is the law of free *homesteads*.

The change in favor of colonists, brought about by this law, in our legislation, is simply a radical transformation of the mode of acquiring, of conserving and of transmitting lands secured by the Crown.

Any person who, in future, purchases from the Crown one or two lots, not exceeding 200 acres superficies, who fulfils the actual conditions of settlement, and obtains a patent or property title of his lot or lots, becomes proprietor of a *Homestead*, which, with all the objects, cattle, household utensils, and working implements enumerated in the bill, will be protected by the present law.

We cannot better convey an idea of that salutary law than by quoting a passage from a speech delivered by Mr. Nantel when he proposed this bill.

"It is true, Mr. Speaker, that our laws protect, in a very large measure, the moveables of the colonist, but scarcely is he in possession of the patent for his lot, than this latter may be seized and sold for old debts, contracted long before the unfortunate debtor conceived the idea of becoming a colonist.

"And what is the use of this protection for the colonists' moveables, when the land, the ground that should yield the fruits indispensable for his existence, is taken from him ?

"There is no doubt that a large number of colonists neglect to take out their patents for their lots, merely on account of the fear they have of being seized and sold.

"Generally, Mr. Speaker, a man does not become a colonist for pleasure sake.

"Too often, and most often, it is dire necessity that pushes him to that extremity, when crippled with debts, incapable of starting his children in life, forced to quit the old native parish, he goes and hides himself in the forest.

"If the lot once patented can be seized and sold by the authorities, unless he is protected, what happens? According to the striking language of Leon Donnat: the family receives a blow to its very existence, the different members of it are cast upon the street, young and old find themselves through the failure of the head, not only without means, but even without shelter, the home-hearth is often destroyed forever.

"There is what takes place when the lot is patented to a colonist, who is in debt before the land is taken possession of.

"But when the lot is not patented, the colonist does not feel at home, judgments rendered weigh heavily on him, crush him and hold him in a state of perpetual unrest, the next thing to hard slavery. His courage sinks, all ambition, all pride, all progressiveness, and all spirit of enterprise vanish from him.

"Under the law that I submit to the House, Mr. Speaker, it could not even flash on a creditor's mind, whose claim is anterior to the occupancy of the lot, to look for something that might be seized at the colonist's home; for the hunt would be useless and the cost of it would fall back on its author.

"The colonist, feeling himself free from all anxiety in that regard, will work with courage, energy and a confidence in the future.

"Knowing that every blow of his on the forest trees will turn to his benefit, will insure after his death the livelihood of his family and the independence of his children, he becomes a new man, animated with a zeal and an ardor capable of great achievements."

So good and favorable to the people was this *Homestead Law*, that the members of the Opposition did not dare attack it.

Never before did a government do as much as the present one has done for the colonists. That gift of the *homestead* was the crowning of the work which the government commenced in 1892 by abolishing

THE THIRTY MONTHS RESERVATION.

The Mercier Government passed a law in virtue of which the colonist, who settled on an uncleared piece of land, was deprived during thirty months of all that helped him to reap the reward of that courage which led him into the forest. During thirty months, the lumber merchant could go on the lot and cut the wood, and consequently take away a great deal of its value. And, we know that the poor children of the Province, who, instead of going off to the United States, start with their axe to settle on some uncleared lot of land, require the help of the Government, and certainly they have a right to draw as much profit as possible from the wood that is there, as long as they are honest colonists and that they do not take lots merely for the sake of the wood. What advantage was there, according to the Mercier administration's law, to go and take up land in the forest, when the colonist was obliged to wait for thirty months the pleasure of a lumber merchant?

When we came into power, the Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, who is now Prime Minister, caused a law to be passed abolishing this thirty months reservation and giving the colonist the advantage, when the conditions of settlement were fulfilled, of using the wood that was cut for the payment of his lot. This law was passed in 1892. (Statutes of 1892, 55-56 Victoria, chap. 18, pp. 49-50).

THE CONVERSION OF THE DEBT.

Anti-Patriotic Conduct of the Opposition.

The Provincial Government's project to convert our debt is one that has received the approval of every person who has at heart the welfare of the Province.

At present we pay 4, 4½ and even 5 per cent. of interest on our obligations. This is due to the fact that, when we contracted those obligations, money, finding easy investment, was more scarce, and, on the other hand, to the other fact that our credit, not being sufficient, left doubts in the minds of capitalists as to the Province redeeming them in the form of increased interest. But, since then, our credit has been re-established. money is easier to find, and the rate of interest has decreased. Taking these

facts, should we continue to pay 4 and 5 per cent. interest if we can secure money at 3 and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ? No serious man would pretend that we should.

In order to reach such a result it is necessary to make a trial. The present Government did try. The Treasurer went to Europe for that purpose, and after three months of observation and interviewing, he returned to ask the House to take another step and to try to realize this plan which was destined to reduce our annual interests by \$125,000 to \$150,000.

And what have we seen ?

We beheld the Opposition moving amendment after amendment, to delay the passage of that law and to embarrass the Government. And why so ?

Is the Opposition against a saving of \$200,000 ?

Why that irrational hostility ?

The Opposition pretended that it was because the Government did not furnish sufficient details to the House. But, all those who exacted details were the very men who in 1888, declared that a Government that is preparing such a project should not make its negotiations public.

The reason and the only true reason of the Liberal party's opposition to that project, was that it fully saw all the advantages the government would derive from the operation.

By diminishing the yearly interests the government would strengthen still more its budget, an equilibrium of the expenses and receipts would be insured and even it could count on a larger amount of resources to continue the development of the various industries of the Province.

It was the crowning of its redeeming and restoring work in regard to the finances of the Province.

It was a fresh claim upon the confidence and gratitude of the public. That is what turned the opposition's stomach.

It understood this a little too late, when after its successive amendments, it sought to shirk the vote by crying out, "adopted on division." If this trick had succeeded, the opposition would have gone before the people and have stated that it did not oppose the project in itself, but it simply wanted to have it more strongly guaranteed. But the Prime Minister forced a square pronouncement on the subject, and, putting their party spirit above their public spirit its members voted against the very project by which the government wished to save \$200,000 to the Province.

Here is that vote :

The House resumed the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Atwater, that the resolutions reported by the Committee of the whole, concerning the conversion of the Provincial debt, be now read a second time.

The principal motion was presented and voted on, and the House divided as follows :

Yeas.—Messrs. Allard, Atwater, Augé, Baker, Beauchamp, Bédard, Bouffard, Carbray, Cartier, Châteauvert, Cholette, Chicoyne, Desjardins, Doyon, England, Flynn, Girard (Lake St. John), Greig, Grenier, Hackett, Lacouture, McClary, Magnan, Marion, Martineau, Nantel, Normand, Panetonn, Parizeau, Pelletier, Petit, Rioux, Savaria, Ste. Marie, Simpson, Spencer and Tetreau.—37.

Nays.—Messrs. Bernatchez, Bisson, Caron, Cooke, Déchène, Girard (Rouville), Gladu, Gosselin, Guerin, Laliberté, Lussier, Marchand, Morin, Pinault, Shenyn, Stephens, Tessier (Portneuf), Tessier (Rimouski), and Turgeon.—19. (Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, December, 1896, pp. 103-103.)

The Liberal members are incapable of defending this bad vote.

Electors of the Province, remember these men and their names; remember the men who approved of all expenditure when they were in power, and who voted to prevent the Government from economizing the sum of \$200,000 of the people's money.

THE RAILWAY SUBSIDIES CONVERSION.

Another important act of the last session, another of the progressive and wise measures of the Flynn administration, is the conversion of the subsidies to railways.

Here is the purport of that measure :

Two statutes were passed, one in 1882 and the other in 1886, relating to the land grants which the Province accorded to the railway companies. The statute of 1882 only gave grants of land; the statute of 1886 gave the companies the option of converting those grants in land into grants in money. But the land, for the purposes of the Act, was estimated at 70 cents, and the companies were firstly to receive only 35 cents in money, according as they complete their works. The second 35 cents was only payable when the lands would be sold by the Government and paid for into the treasury. Now, the companies say: Where are the lands that represent our second 35 cents? Those lands were never laid out nor sur-

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veyed; therefore, we do not know where to find them. Cause the necessary surveys to be made, and give us what belongs to us; otherwise, when you voted the statute of 1882 you were not serious. That law was only an illusion. If you were in earnest, show us our lands. To point out those lands, what was necessary? They had to be located and surveyed, which means very great expenses. Would it not be better to come to an arrangement by which the Province would be freed of a portion of these liabilities? This was the question that the Government asked itself, and that it answered by causing, at the last session, a law to be adopted by which it was authorized to make an arrangement with the companies by which they would renounce the thirty-five cents per acre of land sold, and accept instead, at most, the half of that sum in cash.

Our opponents tried to stir up public opinion against this wise policy. They pretend that the Government is going to pay \$1,500,000 in cash to settle an obligation that does not become due for a very long time. The Flynn Government answers this by saying that the companies had the right to have the lands, that were voted them in the House, laid out; that the surveying that the Government would consequently be obliged to have done would cost over eight hundred thousand dollars, and that moreover in keeping the lands that are to be redeemed the Government secures an annual revenue much higher than the interest on the \$1,500,000 that would have to be paid.

Hon. Mr. Flynn's pretention is well founded. Let the Hon. Mr. Shehyn, the Liberal ex-Provincial Treasurer, reply. In his Budget speech Mr. Shehyn stated, in referring to the land grants:

"But to deliver these lands to the acquirers of them they must be surveyed, which costs 17 cents per acre in taking the average cost of such work. For 5,126,500 acres at 17 cents the acre the cost of surveying would form a sum of \$871,505." (Budget speech of 1887, p. 36.)

Here is the first point gained. The surveying of 5,126,500 acres would cost over eight hundred thousand dollars.

And, in 1897, thanks to Mr. Mercier's munificence, the Companies have a right, not to a five millions of acres, but to 9,415,000 acres. According to Mr. Shehyn, the government would thus have to spend, on surveying, simply to fulfil its obligations towards the Companies, a sum equal to the \$1,500,000 that we are giving for the redeeming of the lands.

In the same speech Mr. Shehyn again said:

"By selling these lands you still further diminish the receipts from woods and forests. In calculating upon the data given in the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for 1886, you would take a revenue of \$91,954 away from the treasury. Capitalized at 5 per cent. that revenue represents a principal of \$1,839,099." (Budget speech of 1887, p. 36).

Here is the second point gained.

If five millions of acres are worth \$1,839,088, it is evident that nearly ten millions of acres should be worth about \$3,600,000. It is this property that the Flynn Government wishes to conserve for the Province by paying \$1,500,000; and in so acting it conserves to the Province an annual revenue of about \$175,000—according to Mr. Shehyn.

These are the acts that the Opposition—including Mr. Shehyn—is obliged to condemn to-day simply because it can find nothing else to criticize.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

Elementary Instruction Encouraged.

A Popular and Progressive Measure.

One of the first items in Hon. Mr. Flynn's programme is the encouragement of primary instruction, and he has determined to fulfil this part of his programme as effectively as possible

The law, which he caused to be voted during the last session, after having delivered a master-piece of oratory, which won him the enthusiastic applause of the whole House, was greeted with joy by all the friends of education in the Province of Quebec. The Premier's aim was to come to the assistance of the children of the people and to place at their disposal, to a greater degree than heretofore, the incalculable benefits of instruction.

At the same time, the Prime Minister wished to help the too much neglected class of teachers, by granting to the most deserving of them certain premiums which would at once constitute a material aid and a significant honor for the winners.

To raise the standard of teaching, assist the poorer municipalities, extend more and more the benefits of primary education, give a fresh impetus to our school system, such has been the aim of the first minister, in conceiving and enacting this law.

It is useless to enter into any lengthy details concerning this measure. It has created for primary education a dower of 1,500,000 acres of land, the price of which should form a fund, which at 4 per cent. will give a sum of \$60,000. This capital and the revenue thereof will constitute a fund for the benefit of elementary schools.

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Clause 3 of the Act speaks for itself: "The revenue from the said fund shall be used to develop elementary education in the poor municipalities, to help the schools which are destined to benefit the working classes in cities and towns, to ameliorate the condition of elementary school-teachers and model school-teachers, to supply free class books, and generally to extend in a more effective manner elementary instruction throughout the Province."

Until that fund is established, the Treasurer of the Province is authorized to take each year from the consolidated revenue fund, a sum of \$50,000 to be applied for the above-mentioned objects.

The Prime Minister has further declared that, so soon as the resources of the treasury will permit, this sum of \$50,000 will be raised to \$100,000, and even to \$150,000.

As is readily seen, this is essentially a progressive measure—a measure in the interest of the people of this Province—a measure that does honor to the statesman who conceived it and to the Government that has set it at the head of its programme.

All the leading papers of the country have applauded this splendid educational policy of the Quebec Conservative Government; even many, who had unfairly criticized our institutions, were forced to pay homage to such a movement.

THE ELECTION LAW.

War Against Corruption.

Purification of Suffrage.

The election law which was passed at the last session was a startling revendication of the worth of our suffrage, for unhappily, in the large cities like Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec, the electoral lists were most outrageously made, so much so that we might call them a menace against the liberty of the citizen.

A vast number of unqualified persons were on the lists, and a multitude of real electors were not on them. The Government resolved to remedy such a scandalous state of affairs, and the honorable Attorney-General, Mr. Pelletier, by a bill that he caused to be passed, permitted

those large and important electoral districts to have lists by means of which a frank and loyal expression of the sentiments of the electorate may be secured.

This law was the compliment of the one which the former Attorney-General, Mr. Casgrain, had passed last year, and which is a regular declaration of war against corruption and fraud in all their forms.

Never before in this country has a Legislature passed a law as severe upon corruption as is this one.

If laws can do anything to uproot this cancer which consumes the strength of constitutionally governed countries, surely the election law of the Province of Quebec should destroy it forever.

In any case, the Conservative Government has given evidence of its desire to have political honesty sway the elections when it passed such a severe and unbending piece of legislation, and these two measures, the one of last year and the one of this year, constitute one of the best claims the Government has upon the confidence of all honest-minded citizens of this Province.

THE DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION LAW.

The law providing for the reorganization of the public departments has also been a proof of the progressive spirit which animates the Conservative Government.

A special department for Colonization and Mines has been created by taking from the Departments of Agriculture and Crown Lands, both of which were overweighed with business, certain important branches, and by abolishing the portfolio of "President of the Council."

Thus the number of Ministers has not been increased, and the interest which the Government has taken in colonization—a branch that every patriotic citizen should wish to see encouraged—is most strikingly demonstrated.

This is another evidence of the solicitude of the Conservative Government in regard to the farming community.

We would never end were we to enumerate all the important measures that mark the course of last session. The abolition of the tax on transfers of property, the adoption of the Code of Civil Procedure—a most practical and popular work, which will render much less expensive the administration of justice for those who are obliged to have recourse to the courts—and several other important laws, to which we have referred already, constitute, in all, a mass of legislation which alone should suffice to cause every class in the Province to bless the Conservative Government.

AN APPEAL TO THE ELECTORATE.

The Two Administrations.

Which will you Have?

It is now for the electorate of the Province of Quebec to speak. The foregoing pages have been written for the people of this Province; it is for that people to now select the administration that will direct the affairs of the Province during five years to come.

Electors of the Province of Quebec! Do you wish to have the business of this Province carried on by such an administration as the one which disgraced and robbed us from 1887 to 1891;

Which increased the ordinary expenses by over \$1,500,000 in five years;

Which created a floating debt of over \$13,000,000;

Which increased the consolidated debt by \$7,000,000;

Which left us a deficit of \$1,458,000.00;

Which so far ruined the credit of the Province that it was reduced to the point of issuing provincial debentures for a term of **Two years** only and on conditions that are equivalent to **6½ or 7 per cent** yearly interest;

Which squandered the public money in a most scandalous manner;

Which allowed, within its own body, or by its side, the perpetration of these formidable robberies and these terrible samples of boodling:

Of the Baie des Chaleurs \$100,000;

Of the Langlais stationery \$60,000;

Of the Sylviculteur \$25,000;

Of the Montreal and Ottawa \$14,900;

Of the Temiscouata Railway \$30,000;

Of the Lockwood \$5,000;

Of the Hereford Railway \$20,000;

Which gave the country the spectacle of a **toll-gate** almost in open and public operation, forcing tribute from all who sought to obtain contracts, favors, positions, the payment of claims, etc. ;

In a word, which drove the Province to the brink of bankruptcy, and which made Quebec an object of shame in the eyes of the Dominion.

If so, you have only to vote for Mr. Marchand and his candidates, many of whom, like the Déchènes, the Carriers, the Robidoux, the Pinaults, the Bernatchezs, the Chêneverts, the Tessiers, the Morins, the Lemieuxs, and so on, were the accomplices and the criminal abettors in that orgie of squanderings, scandals, and spoliations.

BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, if you desire to have your affairs still administered by a government like the one which has repaired the ruins that the "clique" government spread on all sides ;

Which has diminished the controlable expense by **\$816,000** ;

Which has increased the revenues, independently of the new taxes, by **\$426,447.03** ;

Which has turned a deficit of **\$1,458,000** into a surplus of **\$280,000** ;

Which reduced the debt of the Province by **\$2,000,000** ;

Which has paid off the floating debt of **\$13,000,000** left to us by Mr. Mercier, without going beyond the power to borrow ten millions, as decreed in his law ;

Which has given a heretofore unknown impetus to our agricultural interests, through the agricultural circles, the founding of the dairy schools, the lectures on farming, the premiums for the exportation of fresh butter, and through the wonderful circulation of the *Journal of Agriculture* ;

Which has re-established the credit of the Province to such a degree that we can obtain for our bonds a premium of **5** per cent, that is to say, to receive **\$105** for every **\$100** bond given by us, a thing that has never taken place before, not since Canada has been discovered ;

Which has governed so honestly that not a serious or reasonable accusation has ever been brought against any of its members ;

Which reserved the place of honor in its programme for the encouragement of instruction amongst the children of the people ;

Which has protected and encouraged, through its wise and progressive laws, the farmer and the settler ;

In that case, vote for the return to power of Honorable Mr. Flynn, a statesman whose prestige is to-day unrivalled in Canada, and whose colleagues labor with all their energies and talents to assist him in the execution of his patriotic plans and the carrying out of his progressive policy.

Electors of the Province of Quebec ! reflect upon the responsibility that rests with you ; remember that your most sacred interests, your property, your prosperity, your happiness are all at stake !

Vote, under the eye of Heaven, for economy, good order, honesty and progress, against administrative blundering, extravagance, boodling, shame and national ruin !

CONTENTS.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS OF 1897.

	PAGES
<i>A Redeeming Policy</i>	1
<i>Finances of the Province</i>	4
Deficits and surpluses.....	4
Expenses of Liberal administration.....	5
Expenses of Conservative administration.....	5
Expenses of the two administrations.....	7
A few Conservative Government economies.....	9
Sessional expenses of the Legislative Assembly	9
“ “ Legislative Council.....	11
“ “ Maintenance of the Legislative Council.....	12
“ “ Civil Services.....	18
“ “ Administration of Justice.....	14
“ “ Crown Lands Department.....	15
<i>Mr. Marchand and Economy</i>	17
<i>An Opposition subterfuge</i>	21
<i>Taxes</i>	26
Mr. Fitzpatrick and the taxes	31
The Taxes were removed	32
<i>The Loans</i> —Why they exist—Of what use they have been.....	32
Sums paid out with the products of the loans.....	38
The Liberals increased the net debt by \$13,000,000. The Con- servatives decreased the net debt by \$2,000,000	44
<i>The Conservative Government's Agricultural Policy</i>	47
The Agricultural Circles.....	47
The Journal of Agriculture.....	51
The Circles, the “Journal” and the Agricultural Lecture	55
The Dairy School	56
Premium for the making of Butter in Winter.....	57
Dairy Competitions.....	58
Premium for Butter Exportation	59

	PAGES.
<i>Eloquent Figures</i>	59
<i>The Two Administrations and their Agricultural Record</i>	61
Colonization encouraged by the Conservatives	64
<i>Liberal Accusations</i>	67
<i>The Vallière Contract</i>	68
<i>The Charlebois Affair</i>	72
<i>The Beauport Transaction</i>	76
<i>The French Loan Question</i>	81
<i>The Montreal Court House</i>	86
<i>The Ouimet—de la Bruère—Chapais Affair</i>	92
<i>The Haras National</i>	98
No Evidence—No Investigations	94
<i>Superannuations</i>	95
<i>Scandals of the Liberal Administration</i>	96
<i>The Baie des Chaleurs Scandals</i>	97
<i>The Sylviculteur Scandal</i>	99
<i>The Montreal and Ottawa, \$14,900 Scandal</i>	100
<i>The \$60,000 Langlais Stationery Scandal</i>	103
<i>The Whelan Scandal</i>	109
<i>The Toll Gate</i>	119
<i>How the Liberats voted when they were in power</i>	120
<i>The Harbingers of Taxation</i>	125
Opinions of Messrs. Mercier, Shehyn, etc.	125
Mr. Mercier on taxation	125
Mr. Shehyn on taxation	125
Mr. Lemieux's Question	127
<i>The Crowning Work</i>	127
The Homestead Law	128
The thirty months Reservation	130
<i>The Conversion of the Debt</i>	130
<i>The Railway Subsidies Conversion</i>	132
<i>The Education Bill</i>	134
<i>The Election Law</i>	135
<i>The Departmental Reorganization Law</i>	136
<i>An Appeal to the Electorate</i>	137

GES.

59
61
64
67
68
72
76
81
86
92
98
94
95
96
97
99
100
103
109
119
120
125
125
125
125
127
127
128
130
130
132
134
135
136
137

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

The *Journal of Agriculture* has made a wonderful advance under the Conservative administration. From 7,516 subscribers, in 1892, it had reached, in 1896, the high number of **52,000**.

Blindness alone can deny progress in that direction. In our day, in agriculture as in every other sphere of social activity, men must educate themselves, must read, must keep abreast of the times and be conversant with new systems and new methods of work. Progress is the cry of the present.

Yet, amongst our adversaries, there are to be found men, sufficiently blinded by the dust of partyism, to deny the benefits conferred by the *Journal of Agriculture*. Here is what one of these opposition chatterers said, last autumn, in the county of Champlain

"The Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture, in his remarks at Nicolet, spoke of the *Journal of Agriculture*. He stated that this paper, which, in 1892, had not more than 7,000 subscribers, boasted to-day over 52,000. But he forgot to state that in 1892 it was optional to subscribe to the *Journal of Agriculture*, that the farmers were free to receive whatever paper they pleased; but that since 1892, this paper is forced on all the members of agricultural circles, and on every hundred dollars voted by the government for the agricultural circles, 10 cents were retained to pay the subscription to Messrs. Senecal & Co., the publishers of the *Minerve*, the friends of the government. He forgot to say that we have paid a sum of \$13,341.80, during the year ending the 30th June, 1895, to Messrs. Senecal & Co., for the printing of the *Journal of Agriculture*. What does this *Journal of Agriculture* contain?"

"It is filled with articles taken from foreign treatises on agriculture, from foreign reviews, which are more or less applicable to farming in this climate of ours. I do not propose discussing any further the worth of this Province's *Journal of Agriculture*."

This is entirely a tissue of falsehoods, and presents the finest tangle of errors imaginable.

In the first place, as regards the subscription to the *Journal of Agriculture*, the above speech contains a well-constructed falsehood. Mr. Déchène, for he is the gentleman in question, found this out later on, and attempted, in a most pitiful way, to rectify his mistake. He sent the following note to the *Electeur*:

.. 36,147
.. 16,447
.. 19,700

8,916 70

2,919 66

25,997 04

... 48,389

... 16,447

.... 31,892

67,220 32

22,919 66

44,300 66

..... 52,775

..... 16,447

..... 36,328

73,842 90

22,919 66

50,923 24

LECLERC.

ons tripled! the
blind partisan to
our industries
administration

"QUEBEC, 18th October, 1896.

"In my speech published yesterday, under the sub-heading *Journal of Agriculture*, you make me say that for each hundred dollars the government retains 70 cents, for the *Journal of Agriculture*. It is 70 cents per dollar that should be stated.

"Yours truly, F. M. DÉCHÈNE."

Mr. Déchène would have done better to have remained quiet, for, in correcting, he only increased the falsehood of his statements.

In the above-cited passage, he agrees that the paper's circulation is 52,000. If the subscription were 70 cents, as he claims, the government would have to pay the publishers over \$36,000.00; yet Mr. Déchène admits that they only received \$13,841.30, for the year ending 30th June, 1895.

Mr. Déchène should spend a few more years in an elementary school, where arithmetic is taught. When he shall have obtained that necessary instruction, and have learned the value of truth, he may undertake to deliver speeches, with some hope of producing an effect on the public.

With regard to the *Journal of Agriculture*, as in every other part of its administration, the government has followed a policy beneficial to the Province.

Under the Mercier administration the Agriculture Department paid to Messrs. Senecal & Co. an allowance of \$1,800.00, and the farmer, who received the publication, paid 30 cents subscription, apart from his regular subscription to the agricultural association of which he was a member. Since 1893, under the present administration, the \$1,800.00 allowance was cancelled, the size of the paper was doubled, while the subscription remained at 30 cents, and not 70 cents, as Mr. Déchène pretends. That subscription is paid by the Government from the grants voted for agriculture and agricultural circles, so that, to receive the paper, the farmer pays only one dollar as his subscription to the circle, or association, instead of \$1.30, as formerly, when he was given a much less important publication. The condition of the Province and that of the farming population have been ameliorated in a marked degree; yet this is the state of things that Mr. Déchène criticizes!

"The *Journal of Agriculture* is no good," says the worthy representative of L'Islet. On this point we can fairly crush him with an avalanche of authorities and testimonials.

Amongst others, we will take, firstly, the report of the Maria Agricultural Circle, in the county of Bonaventure:

"Having need of a variety of oats, for green fodder, that can produce a strong straw, capable of holding the grain and shell from falling, we

bought that called the 'Banner.' The result was satisfactory, the green fodder surpassed in a great degree that of the previous year.

"Thanks to the land-clearing 'bees' organized by the Circle, a considerable extent of ground, heretofore considered to be useless for cultivation, now produces good crops.

"Before the formation of this Circle, turnips and Siam cabbage were only cultivated, for table-purposes, in a corner of the garden; this year (1895) at least two thousand bushels were gathered in this municipality.

"Over 60 sheds and a number of pits were constructed to preserve the manure.

"Old methods have nearly disappeared, we put into practice the teachings of the *Journal of Agriculture* and of the lecturers.

"I deemed it well to give you an idea of the progress made in the parish since the establishment of the Circle.

"(Signed) ANDRE LOUBERT,

"*Secretary of the Maria Agricultural Circle.*"

Let us take the report of the Caupsapscaal Agricultural Circle :

"There is certainly progress here, which we owe to the reading of the *Journal of Agriculture* and to the lecturers. Every one speaks of improvements and forward movements."

In the report of the St. Philemon Circle it is said :

"We feel able to say that there is a general progress, which progress is attributed to the establishment of a dairy and to the reading of the *Journal of Agriculture*, which the circle encourages."

Let us now take the report of the Boucherville Circle :

"This year, there has been considerable improvement in the production of green fodder, as summer feed for cattle; every one raised it, and every one was satisfied. Hence the remark of Hon. Mr. de Boucherville : 'Even had the *Journal of Agriculture*, which is circulated by this energetic circle, obtained no other result, this alone would be a grand step in the direction of progress.'"

The Lake Weedon Agricultural Circle's report states as follows :

"For some years back we have noticed with pleasure, that, encouraged by good results, the farmers cultivate a great deal of green fodder,

and quite a number have taken to weeding. We hope that soon, even the most hardened in the old-fashioned ways, will accept the evidences of the progress made by the members of the circle, and will follow their example.

"Our circle is destined to do immense good amongst the farmers, and the *Journal of Agriculture* contributes not a little to this agricultural revival."

There would be no end to the citations if we were to continue.

It seems to us that the farmers, who are members of the agricultural circles, are better judges in the matter than can be the young member of L'Islet, whose agricultural capabilities are rather doubtful.

Here is another piece of evidence. Rev. Father Gerard, a Trappist and agriculturist of highest scientific qualifications, made the following statement in the masterly address on farming, which he read at the Orleans convention, last August :

"Among the reviews, we cannot too highly recommend to the farmer the *Journal of Agriculture* of this Province. According to our view, it is one of the most complete, best informed, and most instructive publications of its kind in the whole world. Even an able agriculturist will be pleased with the reading of it and will find something new to learn from its pages. With stronger reason must that reading be useful and profitable to the ordinary farmer. It is thus he will develop his theoretic instruction, little by little and without fatigue, and that he will keep up to the level of his duty."

Between the opinion of Father Gerard, who is deeply read in agricultural science, and that of Mr. Gilbert Déchéne, a choice is not difficult to make.

Now for a few foreign testimonials. They are very numerous.

Mr. E. Castel, Secretary of the Dairy Association of St. Hyacinthe, sent to the *Journal* last year, the following extract from a letter written by M. E. Rigaux, agricultural professor at Mende, Lozere, France :

"I still receive the *Journal of Agriculture* and find it very interesting. The issue of the 15th June, page 365, etc....."

"At the end of this same number, there is an index of contents for all the issues since the 1st January, 1894 ; it is a regular encyclopædia ; the 18 numbers combined would form a magnificent and interesting volume. As I only have the collection from number 5, I would be much obliged to you, if you could possibly secure me the missing numbers, that is from number 5 to 4 inclusive."

"E. RIGAUX.

"Mende, 15 July, 1895."

Here is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Emile Keller, former Deputy for Belfort, in the French Assembly :

" I thank you in advance for the agricultural documents that you are sending. I have already received here the *Journal of Agriculture*, which I find admirably made."

Take the following letter ; it speaks for itself :

" SIR,—I beg to subscribe for one year to your excellent *Journal of Agriculture* ; I would like to try and popularize its views in Brittany.

" I will pay you as best suits your convenience, by order or bond.

" Please accept, Sir,

" The expression of respectful homage,

" ABBÉ FÉLIX TROCHU, *Vicar*.

" La Guerche de Bretagne,

" Ile de Vilaine."

Enough of citations ! Our readers should be sufficiently convinced that Mr. Déchéne's criticism cuts a sorry figure in presence of such testimony as the foregoing.

The Conservative Government, and, in particular, Hon. Mr. Beaubien, should feel proud of the success that accompanies the *Journal of Agriculture*, of the good it is doing and of the wonderful spread in its circulation.

In 1892 it had 7,516 subscribers. In 1896 it had 52,000 ! Fifty-two thousand subscribers who await, with expectancy, the regular visit of this agricultural professor, and who derive untold benefit from its presence in their homes.

What a splendid result ! And how narrow the mind that cannot admire it or rejoice in its existence !

THE CIRCLES, THE "JOURNAL," AND THE AGRICULTURAL LECTURES.

We could not produce better evidence of the importance of the agricultural circles, agricultural lectures, and the *Journal of Agriculture*, than in the words of Rev. Mr. Marquis, agricultural missionary, addressed to Hon. Mr. Beaubien, and which are to be found on page 315 of the Commissioner of Agriculture's report for 1896 :

" In my humble opinion nothing has more aided our agricultural advancement than the creation of agricultural circles and the spreading of agricultural knowledge by means of lectures and through the *Journal of*

RIGAUX.

Agriculture. The circles gave birth to a corporative spirit heretofore unknown amongst the farmers. The agricultural meetings have taught our farmers to come together, to unite their forces, and to seek out the new highways to success in their various undertakings. The study of the *Journal* knocked out many old prejudices which obstructed improvement, and we have reason to hope that a better knowledge of the art of farming will eventually wipe out the old-fashioned methods.

"Several priests and missionaries, at different times, have told me how much they regretted being unable to establish agricultural circles in their respective parishes. The great difficulty, for the latter, was to conform to the dispositions of the law governing these circles, and, for the former, to stir up the apathy that existed amongst the farmers of their parishes.

"The Assistant Commissioner of your department, having given me a few hundred sample copies of the *Journal of Agriculture*, I applied to the priests, in whose parishes no circles existed, to have these papers distributed, as specimens and as an encouragement, by some of the more intelligent of their parishioners. My hopes were not vain; this step brought me the congratulations of several parish priests and missionaries, who, at the request of their parishioners, asked me to help them in forming agricultural circles, many of which are now in full activity."

These words are too eloquent to require comment.

THE DAIRY SCHOOL.

To give life to our dairy industry, the only one that in the past seemed to, and in the present and for the future, secures to us our principal source of revenue, and our prosperity, to infuse new life into that industry, we required good butter and cheese makers, as well as well-established butter and cheese factories. The government applied to the Dairy Association, and was answered that it had not enough of inspectors for the needs of the country, and that there were not, even, enough of butter and cheese makers; that we were obliged to import from abroad.

The government at once agreed with the Association's idea and founded the St. Hyacinthe School, by causing to be voted in the Legislature a sum of \$10,000 for that purpose (see Statutes of 1893, p. 24). Witness the success of this attempt. In the first year (1892-93) that school had 214 pupils.

In 1893-94 it had 268.

In 1894-95 it had 312; and last year about 300; in all, for the four years, 1094 students.

Here we must recognize, and we do so with pleasure, the services of the specialists who helped in placing that school upon an excellent footing.

The government intends to leave no stone unturned in maintaining that nursery of butter and cheese makers in a degree of perfection that will leave no room for us to envy the neighboring provinces.

The government has, so far, devoted the following sums to the use of that school:

Aid for the building of the school (Public Accounts, 1893, p. 157).....	\$4,031 00
Allowance for construction (Public Accounts, 1894, p. 155).....	2,000 00
Aid for the building (Public Accounts, 1895, p. 148)..	2,000 00
Supplementary allowance for the Dairy School of St. Hyacinthe (Public Accounts, 1896, p. 173)...	1,318 00
Allowance for enlargement of School (<i>Ibid</i>).....	2,900 00
Regular allowance (Public Accounts, 1896, p. 174)...	2,000 00
	\$14,241 00

The creation of this school has been one of the greatest benefits conferred on the farming class by the Conservative government. When we think that, during the last four years, it received 1,094 farmers' sons, and taught them the numberless methods of butter and cheese making, we can form an idea of how such remarkable progress has been made in the great agricultural industry of our Province. All honor to the Conservative government; and all honor to Hon. Louis Beaubien, for their patriotic policy!

PREMIUM FOR THE MAKING OF BUTTER IN WINTER.

In 1892 the Conservative government decided to grant a premium for the fabrication of butter in winter time. We read in report issued by the Honorable Commissioner of Agriculture for 1892;

"I thought that I should, from the amounts voted last session for the dairy industry, inaugurate a special system of premiums to induce our farmers to increase the milk production in winter time and to thus prolong the butter-making season. This new policy became known to the public somewhat late last fall; despite everything, however, the reports sent to my department show that the farmers greatly appreciate that important improvement. At the present moment reports are still coming in. The amount paid up to date is \$946.67.

"Here is the form of the premium, 5 cents per hundred pounds of milk delivered in November, 10 cents in December, and 15 cents in January and February, to be divided between the proprietors of dairy establishments and the furnishers of the milk, in the proportion of 80 per cent to the latter and 20 per cent. to the former.

"In view of the satisfactory results this year, I purpose continuing this system for three years to come."

Here are the amounts of the premiums granted by the Government

In 1892-93 (Pub. Accts., p. 157)	\$2,527
In 1893-94 (Pub. Accts., p. 158)	4,924
In 1894-95 (Pub. Accts., p. 146)	9,205

The results obtained are most satisfactory. Hon. Mr. Beaubien, after three years of this protective policy, could well say, in his Nicolet speech of the 4th October, 1896 :

"During three years the Government has granted a premium for the making of butter in winter time. In that space of time the production of butter tripled. You remember, a fact well known in this town, that the Messrs. Houle declared that, despite the great distance, they had doubled the product of their herds by bringing the milk to the butter manufactory all winter.

"In 1893, the first year of the premium, there was made winter butter to the value of.....	\$ 31,537 00
In 1894 to the value of	60,094 00
In 1895 to the value of	118,013 54

"The industry was established and could be left to itself, we have also directed our efforts to assist the new industry."

There is certainly one of the Conservative Government's best claims on the gratitude of the farming class.

DAIRY COMPETITIONS.

To encourage the butter-makers, the department has instituted competitions, and they are carried on after the following system : Without previous notification the butter or cheese-makers receive a message from the department asking for a cheese or a firkin of butter, to be sent the next day, or the day after, to a certain address in a certain town. This cheese or firkin is purchased by the department. Specialists examine the Medals, diplomas, or prizes in money are accorded to those who secure the greatest number of points ; inferior articles receiving no prize. To those who make defective articles, instructions, advice, and even censures are given, but they alone know of these remarks. The successful ones, while the others are making good resolutions for the future, have the prize list published, and scatter abroad the information concerning their products. We may, therefore, say, that these competitions, which can in no way injure any one, not even the manufacturer of a poor article, for they stimulate him to greater exertion in the future, are calculated to raise the

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standard of our butter and cheese. This is one of the results of the trip taken to Europe by Messrs. Gigault and Leclerc, and on which Mr. Hague, the manager of the Merchants Bank, has congratulated us. These competitions were only inaugurated this year, but it is easy to see what encouragement they afford the makers of good butter and cheese, particularly those who are anxious to learn and advance. The judges in these competitions are selected from amongst the leading exporters of dairy produce.

Last year the Conservative Government devoted \$2,500 to these competitions, in order to create an emulation amongst the dealers in such products. (Public Accounts for 1896, page 175.)

PREMIUM FOR BUTTER EXPORTATION.

The small amount of capital needed for the building of cheese factories, and the high prices which that commodity commanded in the market a few years ago, induced a great many farmers and others to go into the business of cheese exportation. The extravagant output of cheese necessarily endangered the trade, by reduction in prices and the over-stocking of the market. Also, ever since 1892, the Department of Agriculture feared the danger that this ever increasing production of cheese would entail, and sought, consequently, to draw more attention to the making of butter, by granting special premiums. This wise movement had for effect the establishment of a great many butter factories, and even the changing of some cheese factories into butter-making establishments. In 1895, the Provincial Government, in concert with the Ottawa Government, inaugurated a totally new policy with the aim of securing the exportation of our butter to England in the best possible condition. The results met the expectations, and our butter is now most highly appreciated on the English market, while, in Montreal alone, the exportation has doubled in two years. According to the statistics of the Montreal Chamber of Commerce, 145,512 firkins were sent to England from the opening of navigation, last year, to the month of November, while the year previous only 64,861 firkins were exported. In cheese a remarkable improvement has also been recorded; 1,561,396 boxes in 1896, against 1,426,193 boxes in 1895. We have now over 400 butter factories, whilst in 1890 we had about one hundred. The vigor imparted to the dairy industry had an effect on the butter trade, of which product England yearly buys over sixty millions of dollars worth, and it checked the too rapidly increasing cheese-making business, by keeping it within the limits that the market requirements have drawn.

ELOQUENT FIGURES.

Do you want to see at a glance the advancement made in consequence of the general measures adopted in the interest of agriculture and the numerous industries that are attached thereto? Just take a look at the following figures:

In 1890, we had 111 butter and 617 cheese manufactories ; a total of 728

In 1895, we had 307 butter and 1,467 cheese manufactories ; a total of 1,774. An increase of 1,046 in the number of factories. According to the reports of 1891, the production of butter and cheese, in 1890, did not reach \$3,000,000.

In 1894, according to the answers given by the butter and cheese makers, the production of the two articles gave over \$7,500,000.

By comparing the production of these two articles during the year above mentioned, we find that in 1893, the farm-class, handled FOUR MILLIONS OF DOLLARS more than in 1890.

Let us quote from the commercial columns of the *Herald*, of the 21st September last :

" Exportations this year, up to date were : for cheese, 1,058,172 cases

" Last year 1,052,593 cases.

" Increase 5,579 cases.

" For butter, up to date, 90,636 firkins or boxes ; last year 30,944 boxes or firkins.

" Increase 59,692."

Therefore, the output of butter has nearly tripled.

To show how useful the Department of Agriculture has been to the butter and cheese makers, Mr. Hague, general manager of the Merchant Bank, in 1895, said :

" The Government of this Province, sent last year, a commission to Denmark, to study the question of butter-making. The report that it made or extracts from that report, should be in the hands of every farmer, not only of this Province, but of all the Dominion."

That commission consisted of Mr. Gigault, Assistant-Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mr. Leclair, superintendent of the St. Haycinthe Dair School. The report which Mr. Hague praises so highly was distributed to all the agricultural associations of the Province.

We have quoted Mr. Hague's words.

Here are other testimonials in favor of the Government's agricultural policy. Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, manager of the Molson Bank, a Liberal in politics, said, on the 2nd December, 1895 ;

"There is no Province in which prosperity is more manifest than in Quebec. This is due to the prudence and economy of the French-Canadian farmers, and to the enlightened policy of Hon. Mr. Beaubien."

Last winter, the representative of the large firm of Gault Brothers, of Montreal, when affairs in the commercial world were more or less troubled, said regarding our Province:

"Payments are made regularly enough, and in that respect the Province of Quebec is at head of the Dominion."

Not bad testimonials for our Province.

One of the members of the firm of James Johnson & Co., was asked: "In which Province are payments most easily made?" He replied: "In the Province of Quebec, firstly, and secondly in Nova Scotia." And he added: "The agricultural future of the Province of Quebec is very promising, and the Commissioner of Agriculture has caused great development in the dairy business."

THE TWO ADMINISTRATIONS AND THEIR AGRICULTURAL RECORDS.

In presence of the splendid impetus given to agriculture by the Conservative Government, the Liberals try to hoodwink the electors by pretending that this Government spent less money for agricultural purposes than did the Liberal Government.

Hold on! In this section of the budget, and only in this one, can we claim the prize for expenditure.

Here are the figures that the Liberal organs cram into their columns to prove that the Conservatives did less than they did for agriculture:

MERCIER ADMINISTRATION.

" The year ending 30th June, 1888 :	Budget.....	\$175,500 00
" " " 1889 :	"	294,100 00
" " " 1890 :	"	261,219 00
" " " 1891 :	"	360,906 00

" Including \$100,000 for iron bridges.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES VOTED FOR 1893.

" To the 30th June, 1892 : Budget.....	\$240,687 50
" Special Expenses.....	119,500 50

THE "TAXERS'" ADMINISTRATION.

" To the 30th June, 1893.....	\$179,019 25
" " " 1894.....	201,400 00
" " " 1895.....	239,090 00
" " " 1896.....	249,900 00

" Compare and judge."

Now, we declare that all this is false and calculated to throw dust in the public eyes.

In the first place, the Liberal press displays a very poor method of calculation in taking the budgets instead of the public accounts as basis of argument. From the budget an approximative figure may be obtained while awaiting the publication of the public accounts. But once these are published, evidently they constitute the source whence the exact figures of receipts and expenses are to be drawn.

The Liberal press is thus guilty of a monumental fraud.

But that is not all. In order to swell the sums that they expended on agriculture they include expenses that belong entirely to the chapter of public works. It is thus they calculate, in the agricultural budget, \$100,000, \$76,000, and \$50,000 for iron bridges. They might as well include the railway subsidies, under the pretext that farmers derive an indirect but real benefit from railroads, on account of the facilities they afford for the transportation of farm produce.

So absurd is this system that we need say no more.

Let us take the official figures of the Public Accounts.

Under the heading "Agriculture," we find the following :

LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION.

1887-88 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	\$97,700 00
1888-89 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	94,061 93
1889-90 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	98,636 54
1890-91 (Pub. Accts. p. 10).....	112,737 09
	\$408,185 56

Let us reverse the medal :

CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION.

1892-93 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	\$115,478 17
1893-94 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	159,097 00
1894-95 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	200,330 66
1895-96 (Pub. Accts. p. 9).....	166,464 09
	\$641,369 92

From these official and undisputable figures, we learn that, in four years, the Conservatives spent \$238,234, more than the Liberals, in the interests of Agriculture.

Now, for colonization, during certain years, the Liberals spent more than did the Conservatives. But they gave a lesser impetus to colonization than the Conservatives gave.

In the aggregate, under the heading of *Agriculture, Immigration and Colonization*, the Conservative administration still comes out ahead. Here is what the public accounts say :

LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION.

1887-88	\$192,500 09
1888-89	225,808 93
1889-90	249,652 07
1890-91	295,628 89
	\$963,589 89

CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION.

1892-93	\$201,328 17
1893-94	242,864 01
1894-95	290,636 00
1895-96	286,814 09
	\$1,021,642 27

From the foregoing the falsehood and audacity of the Liberal assertions are patent.

COLONIZATION.

Encouraged by the Conservatives.

Let the Liberals shout that the Conservative Government has done nothing for colonization; they are only losing their breath, and they cannot deceive the public.

During the present year the Conservative Government spent \$156,000 for colonization purposes, an amount which in none of their fiscal years did the Liberals equal.

Truly there were other years in which the Liberals laid out more money than the Conservatives on colonization. But, we repeat, they produced less effect in the colonizing movement than did the Conservatives. And we will prove it.

How much land, under the two administrations, was sold for colonizing purposes? Judge for yourself:

MERCIER ADMINISTRATION.

Acres of land sold.

July, 1887, to 30th June, 1888.....	104,654
July, 1888, to 30th June, 1889.....	118,088
July, 1889, to 30th June, 1890.....	129,014
July, 1890, to 30th June, 1891.....	187,829½
	489,585½

CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION.

July, 1892, to 30th June, 1893.....	156,925½
July, 1893, to 30th June, 1894.....	148,484½
July, 1894, to 30th June, 1895.....	165,556½
July, 1895, to 30th June, 1896.....	125,680

Conservative Government.....	596,646½
Mercier Government.....	439,585½

Difference	107,060½
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These statements are to be found on page 10 of the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands, for 1896.

This means that for colonization purposes the present government sold 107,000 acres of land more than did the Mercier government.

Consequently the colonists looked upon the Conservative policy as the more advantageous and more favorable to their interests.

Is another piece of evidence required? We have it at hand, and an eloquent one it is. The number of acres granted *free* for colonization purposes are as follows:

LIBERALS.

1887-88	2,093
1888-89	3,284
1889-90	200
1890-91	205
	5,789

CONSERVATIVES.

1892-93	37,646
1893-94	37,205
1894-95	26,814½
1895-96	21,869½
	133,535
	5,789
	137,746

So Mr. Mercier, the great friend of the colonist, only made free grants of 5,789 acres of land, while the Conservatives gave 133,535.

Let the colonist say which are his best friends.

The answer we can anticipate; colonization has doubled under the present administration.

A few additional details may serve to show more clearly all that the Conservative party has done for colonization.

LAKE ST. JOHN.

In 1892 the Trappist Fathers established themselves at Lake St. John. Over one hundred families now constitute the little colony on the shores of Mistassini.

Bridges were built over the large tributaries of the Lake, and over the Saguenay; the Grande Decharge, Mistassini, l'Ashuapmouchanan, or St. Felicien, Tikouapé, or St. Methode, and Lake Bouchette bridges. These bridges cost \$43,000.00.

A steamboat plying on the rivers Ashuapmouchanan, Peribonka and Mistassini, goes up twice weekly, affording communication to the colonists with head of the railway line at Roberval. The Government assured the construction of this steamer, which is comfortable and convenient, by a grant of \$5,000, and assured its continual service during five years, by an annual grant of \$2,000. All this is apart from the roads improved and opened out each year, as usual.

NORTH OF MONTREAL.

Northwest of Montreal the Chapeau highway has been made suitable for carriage traffic; this road runs from the railway terminus, at Chute aux Iroquois, to the Lièvre river, a distance of 54 miles; this route, most part of which was only marked out, constitutes a principal highway; it is actually the continuation of the railroad.

The roads in the townships of Clyde, Joly, Minerve, Marchand and Loranger have been made suitable for carriage travel, and new roads have been opened in Turgeon, Mousseau, Kiamika and Campbell townships.

Let us not forget the Trembling Mountain road, four miles in length, running through the forest from the railway to the place selected for the now much talked of "sanatorium." We hope this undertaking will be a success and that numbers of colonists may flock thither. This road was completed at once.

LAKE TEMISCAMINGUE.

At Lake Temiscamingue, a road twelve feet wide, intended specially for winter travel, has been opened out; in summertime communication by water is more convenient. This road is 52 miles long, and joins together Baie des Pères and the fertile townships of Guignes, Duhamel, Faber and Laverlochère, with the Gordon Creek, where the railway ends. A bridge costing a couple of thousand dollars had to be built over the river Kippewa. Moreover, all the roads in these townships have been improved, and energetically opened out.

IN THE MATAPEDIA VALLEY.

Operations have been commenced by erecting two large bridges over the river Matapedia, one at Causapsca, and one at St. Alexis, and by opening up roads to meet those bridges.

Last year another large bridge was built at St. Ludger, in the county of Beauce; the only one that, on the Chaudière river, successfully resisted the spring floods.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS.

We will just give a few figures regarding the movements of population in the large centres.

The colony of Mistassini has already over 100 families, with a chapel and a school. This may give a fair idea of the increase in population throughout the townships around the Lake.

Mr. Christin, Crown Lands agent for the north of Montreal, in his report of the 5th December, 1895, says that the year previous, 300 families settled in nine parishes situated in the district under his jurisdiction. He bases this report on a house to house census.

Mr. Carufel, colonization agent in Montreal, in his monthly report of last September, states that 285 colonists were passed through his office, 211 going north of Montreal, 54 to Lake Temiscamingue, and 20 to Lake St. John.

Mr. Carufel adds that the best off colonists come from the United States.

Rev. Mr. Thérien, pastor of Baie des Pères, states in a report made to the department, that 60 families have established themselves at Temiscamingue.

Mr. Michaud, Crown Lands agent for the Matapedia Valley, sold 194 lots during the months of April, June, July and August last. We may add, concerning this region, that Mr. Pineault, who represents Matane in the Local House, and who is an opponent of the Government, stated, during last session, that 300 families had come recently into the valley and established themselves there.

In a number of other localities colonization goes on with marked advancement and in a manner to awaken the brightest hopes for the future of the Province of Quebec.

LIBERAL ACCUSATIONS.

Despairing of finding any ground for reasonable criticism, as far as the Government's financial administration and its agricultural and colonization policies are concerned, our opponents attempt to draw off the public attention by the cry of "Scandal"; all about the most clear and simple matters, so much so that their efforts are more worthy of pity than condemnation.

They have striven to show that the Conservative administration had its scandals, and each attempt, on their part, was a miserable failure.

You read in their press and you hear from the lips of their orators, fearful denunciations of the Vallière scandal, the Charlebois scandal, the Beauport Asylum scandal, the French loan scandal; and when they are asked for proof, when they are driven to the wall, when they are urged for details, when they are asked to make clear and more precise accusations, they grow wild, they hesitate, they mutter out something or other, and finally they collapse and admit that they are unable to substantiate their assertions.

We will examine a few of their accusations and the reader will see how ridiculous and baseless they are.

THE VALLIÈRE CONTRACT.

\$100,000 Saved.

And the Liberals Call that a Scandal!

The Vallière Scandal! How often have we not seen this flaming heading in the Liberal organs. It is like crying out "stop thief," in order to gain time for escape. For there actually was a Vallière scandal, but it was in the days of the *Clique's* administration, under the rule of the toll-collectors and boodlers.

Who held the reins of power in 1891? The Mercier government, of course.

That government was given to doing everything in grand style. It had to repair the Montreal Court House, erect Normal schools, etc.

Naturally, furniture was necessary to fit up all these edifices. On the 13th February, 1891, the month in which the Federal elections took place, Mr. Garneau asked, through Mr. Lesage his deputy, from the Montreal Court House architects, a list of all the articles they would require to furnish the building.

Three days later Mr. Garneau wrote to Mr. Philippe Vallière the following letter:

"DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"QUEBEC, 16th February, 1891.

"Philippe Vallière, Esq., Furniture Dealer,
"Quebec:

"Sir,—As the Government requires a certain quantity of furniture and utensils for the Montreal Court House, to which a new story is being added at present; for the new prison in the district of Montreal, and for the

McGill and Laval Normal schools, at Quebec and Montreal, the construction of which will soon be commenced, I am authorized by my colleagues to inform you that the making of such furniture and the purchase of such utensils have been entrusted to you, jointly with Mr. James Walker, a Montreal merchant, and that you will receive, from time to time, precise and detailed instructions in this connection.

"The furniture must be of the quality that the Public Works Department will indicate, and the prices will be the current market prices, subject to the approval of the Department, or, if necessary, of experts.

"I should, moreover, inform you that a reasonable sum, according to circumstances, will be paid you as soon as the supplies are voted at the next session.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

P. GARNEAU,
Commissioner."

"Ordered by the Executive Council."

P. G.

Mr. Vallière went to work, as was very natural, and he made furniture on furniture to such an extent, that on the 22nd July following, before one piece of that furniture had been delivered, Mr. Mercier telegraphed from Ste. Anne de la Pérade to Mr. Garneau :

ST. ANNE DE LA PÉRADE, 22nd July, 1891.

HON. P. GARNEAU,
Quebec.

I beg of you to settle the Valliere affair, if sufficient necessary funds.

MERCIER.

Mr. Garneau evidently had the funds, for the next day, Mr. Mercier's request was complied with, and on the demand made by Mr. Vallière for \$60,000, Mr. Garneau wrote to the Accountant of the Public Works Department :

MR. ACCOUNTANT,

Please prepare a cheque in favor of Mr. Philippe Vallière for the sum of sixty thousand dollars, that should be paid him, on account of furniture that he is to make for the Montreal Court House.

(Signed) P. GARNEAU,
Commissioner.

This all took place on the 23rd July, 1891, under the Mercier administration. Mr. Vallière had his \$60,000 and the Government was not yet ready to receive the furniture. In September there was no room to lodge this furniture, none in December; finally it was only the following spring that Mr. Vallière's articles could be utilized.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vallière had his articles of furniture insured, but, when the policy ran out, on the 25th November, 1891, he refused to renew it, because he could not get a promise of renewal of the contract, in case of loss by fire.

The government undertook to have these articles insured for \$50,000, but it had not time to carry out its idea. Mr. Angers had already decided to send these evil-doers before their judges—the people.

There is the whole scandal; it is the work of the party which Messrs. Déchéne, Lemieux, Turgeon, Tessier, Laliberté, Girouard, Bernatchez, etc., supported, and at whose doings Mr. Marchand only winked.

The scandal consists in the fact of having given, while a Federal election was going on, an unlimited contract for the making of furniture that was not used until the spring of 1892.

The scandal was the paying of \$60,000 before Mr. Vallière had asked for it.

Why such haste in giving out a contract for the furnishing of buildings that were not yet erected, and which are not even constructed to-day?

The fact is, that, in the month of February, 1891, money was needed to corrupt the electorate, and that, in order to secure the money, it was necessary to bleed the provincial treasury. It had been stated, more than once, that Mr. Vallière gave, on that contract, the sum of \$50,000 to the electoral fund of the "Clique," and that statement has never yet been denied.

Moreover, it must be remembered that the copy of the order given to Mr. Vallière was only sent in to the department on the 17th December, 1891, after the Mercier cabinet was dismissed. This shows the want of order in the administration of affairs at that time. If this contract was really given by letter, on the 16th February, 1891, how comes it that such an order was only returned to the department a year later, when the Government had been dismissed from office and that it saw no escape from the publication of its misdeeds?

Once more, there is the whole scandal, and that scandal was committed, executed, accomplished under the Mercier administration.

This was the state of affairs when the Conservative Government came in. Mr. Vallière had \$60,000 of the Province's cash, and the Province had nothing in return.

The repairs commenced in the Montreal Court House were continued, and soon the new offices required furniture. What was to be done? To sue Mr. Vallière for \$60,000 and have the furniture manufactured elsewhere, or else come to an arrangement? Hon. Mr. Taillon went to see Mr. Vallière, intending, if possible, to come to some agreement. Mr. Vallière stated that his contract gave him the right to a \$150,000 order, and that not one chair would leave his establishment before the Government had fully recognized this claim. "Good day," said Mr. Taillon; "on such conditions we can come to no arrangement." And Mr. Taillon had a protest served on Mr. Vallière at once, and he had a declaration drawn up to serve as basis of an action at law.

Seeing how matters stood Mr. Vallière softened down, and he agreed to give up his claim of a \$150,000 contract, in order to come to an agreement.

That agreement was as follows:

The Government should take the furniture already manufactured, at the price fixed by the Mercier Government, and if more were needed the additional articles should be paid for according to the valuation of arbitrators. And Mr. Vallière should deduct from the total price of these pieces of furniture the sum of \$60,000.

Certainly, had the contract never been given by Mr. Mercier, had Mr. Vallière not already got possession of the \$60,000 of provincial money, and if the prices of the furniture had not been fixed by the Mercier Government's arbitrators, the whole furnishing could have been done much more cheaply.

But since the arrangements, real or otherwise, of the Mercier Government existed, concessions were necessary.

Moreover, Mr. Fitzpatrick, one of the Liberal leaders, stated that, in equity, the Government should continue the contract with Mr. Vallière.

Taking this fact into consideration, did the Conservative Government protect the interests of the Province? If it protected those interests, instead of the censure of its opponents, it deserves the gratitude of the electorate. Let us look into this. Mr. Vallière pretended to have a contract of \$150,000 for the furnishing of the Montreal Court House. The Conservative Government made him abandon that pretention, and with little over the half of that sum, say \$97,038.76 it furnished the Court House in Montreal as well as those of Hull and Pontiac.

This means that out of a scandalous transaction, an unlimited one, which might have as easily cost \$300,000 as \$150,000, ordered by the Mercier administration, the present Government made a regular transaction by which it saved the Province \$50,000 for the Montreal Court House alone,

and \$100,000 if the furnishing of the Hull and Pontiac Court Houses is taken into consideration.

And the fellows of the old "Clique" call that a scandal! "Because," they say, "you renewed a contract that you had denounced."

We denounced the contract of \$150,000, given at hap-hazard, for buildings that did not yet exist, and partly paid before the furniture was needed, all for the purpose of electoral corruption. We denounced it, and we still denounce it.

But the subsequent arrangement completely changed the nature of the contract. The Province saved \$50,000 on the furnishing of one building alone, and from \$95,000 to \$100,000 on the furnishing of the three Court Houses put together.

Who is the honest man who cannot see in this an energetic effort to economise the public money?

"Because the prices of the furniture are the same," say the Liberals.

That could not be helped. You fixed the price, the furniture was made, and it had to be taken as it was. But for the balance, the prices were fixed by arbitrators, and the articles were made at as low a cost as was possible, of course, harmonizing them, as was necessary, with the articles ordered by Mr. Mercier.

Anything irregular, scandalous, or extravagant in the contract, was done in 1891 under the Mercier Administration; and, as usual, the task, that fell to the lot of the Conservative party, was to repair all that was loose, foolish and scandalous in the famous Vallière contract.

THE CHARLEBOIS AFFAIR.

Another affair, concerning which the Liberals try to cry out "scandal," is the payment of \$40,000 to Mr. Charlebois, contractor, for certain works consisting of the building of a stone fence around the grounds of the Legislative buildings.

Here again, the Conservative Government had only to get through, as best it could, with a sample of bad administration originating with the Mercier Government.

We will relate the facts as briefly as possible, and, in so doing, we will take our data from an official document, the report of the Committee of the Executive Council, dated 9th June, 1894, and approved, the same day, by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. This document is to be found in the Public Works Department report for 1894.

Under the Mercier Government, on the 9th August, 1887, Hon. Mr. McShane, then Commissioner of Public Works, addressed, without other formality, the following letter to Mr. Alphonse Charlebois :

"You will please to begin work at once for the erection of a new stone wall or fence all around the Parliament Buildings. Also provide the material necessary for the construction of the same. The conditions and price will be the same as for work done by you by the day for the government.

"P.S.—You will please to do this fence or wall according to plans shown to me and my Premier, Honorable H. Mercier."

The 2nd of September, 1887, the same Commissioner of Public Works sent the following letter to the same Mr. Charlebois :

"You will please to provide for all the wrought iron gates required for the stone fence all around the Parliament Buildings, according to design shown to you in my office by myself and the Premier, or any other design that may be selected by the government that will correspond with the stone fence, on condition, however, that you will execute and complete all the iron work required for said stone fence for a sum not exceeding forty thousand dollars, and no extra shall be allowed under any consideration whatever."

Note the manner in which this minister of the "Clique" cabinet gave orders for such important works. No order-in-council, no tenders, no contract, no legal or regular form, no administrative regularity, and nothing in the Department of Public Works to indicate that such an order had been given to Mr. Charlebois. Not even copies of the letters, whereby the minister ordered such work to be done, can be found.

The fence was absolutely useless, and it is a monument to the extravagant spirit of the Mercier administration.

It was only long afterwards that the officers of the Department learned of the existence of the astonishing letters, from the Commissioner of Public Works, whereby a public contractor received, on the wing as it were, a contract that might run into the \$100,000 figures.

This is the starting point of the whole affair ; one of the most disgraceful that even the "Clique" Government ever gave to the Province as a legacy.

When the Conservative Government came in the works on the stone fence were interrupted and Mr. Charlebois had two claims, for general works against the department of Public Works : one for \$51,638.92, the

other for \$31,623.40. On the 31st May, 1892, Mr. Charlebois, himself, wrote to the department :

" These claims were filed in the department on the 1st May, 1889, and were referred to the law officers who reported favorably upon them. The 28th June, 1889, an advance of eighty thousand dollars was made upon these claims as also on the works done and being done. The 29th October the Government decided to charge that advance of eighty thousand dollars to the claims only, and to make a new advance of seventy thousand dollars on the works."

(Signed), " A. CHARLEBOIS."

This means that, apart from the \$80,000, Mr. Charlebois claimed \$51,638.92 and \$31,623.40 ; a total of \$83,262.32.

The fence was, at that time, unfinished and the materials to be used covered the surroundings of the Legislative Buildings. The Conservative Government gave Mr. Charlebois an order to complete, as quickly as possible, what would have to be done to use up the materials upon the ground and to finish the portions of the fence that he could not leave unfinished without disfiguring the place, and it refused to recognize the other claims of the contractor.

Finally, when Mr. Charlebois had completed the works in question, he claimed a sum of \$52,681.85, and the Government refused to pay the amount.

Mr. Charlebois took out a petition of right before the Superior Court at Quebec, and, after having received from him a new proposal, by which he abandoned \$12,681.85 of his claim, the Government, in order to end this business, for which the former cabinet was entirely responsible, thought it better to accept that proposition, and bound itself to pay the \$40,000 in question, on Mr. Charlebois accepting the following conditions :

Mr. Charlebois should renounce :

1. His pretended right to continue the construction of the wall when it would reach the expropriation of the Hearn estate and St. Julie street ;

2. Whatever rights might be his on account of Hon. Mr. McShane's letter, date the 2nd September, 1887, above quoted :

" You will please to provide for all the wrought iron gates for the stone fence all around the Parliament Buildings for a sum not exceeding forty thousand dollars."

3. All that he pretended to be due him according to his claims produced the 31st May, 1892, above quoted ; to wit, \$51,638.92 and \$31,623.40.

4. All damages resulting from the delay caused in the execution of his works since 31st May, 1892 ;

5. The sum of \$5,000 which he owed the Crown Lands Department and which he sought to have included in the final settlement that the Government should give him.

Mr. Charlebois remained indebted to the Crown Lands Department to the extent of \$5,000.

In fine, the Conservative Government got out of the mess by making Mr. Charlebois renounce all rights that might flow from the order given him by the Minister of Public Works under the Mercier Government.

He renounced all his claims for the remainder of the works undertaken by him and he accepted the sum of \$40,000 instead of \$52,681.85, which he formerly claimed.

There is the whole scandal !

The Conservative Government closed, in the most favorable manner possible for the Province, a bad business, commenced in criminal carelessness by the Mercier administration, it saved the Province a considerable sum in freeing it from very troublesome claims, and by avoiding a law suit that, from a pecuniary point of view, might have resulted to the Province's great disadvantage.

This is the affair that the Liberals have the impudence to denounce, when they should blush at the very thought of their Liberal government engaging the Province in transactions that might draw, without any plausible excuse, large sums from the treasury.

The argument which they try to use, in discussing this matter, is that in answer to Mr. Charlebois' petition of right, the Department of Public Works disclosed that it owed nothing to this contractor; but that is an allegation based on certain calculations which would be difficult to substantiate before the courts.

In reality, the fact of obtaining from Mr. Charlebois the renunciation of all the advantages that he might have held, constitutes a compensation more than sufficient for the sum the government consented to pay him.

As we have seen, this scandal is a very simple matter, and altogether creditable to the Conservative government, which proved itself, in all its relations with Mr. Charlebois, a faithful guardian of the public interests.

No more than in the Vallière affair, the Liberals did not ask for a Committee of Inquiry to establish the looseness or wrongfulness in the government's course upon this subject.

The Liberals acted wisely, for an investigation would have proven that the scandal was entirely on their side, completely on the side of the Liberal administration, and that the Conservative cabinet merely protected, as much as possible, the public interests which had been compromised by our opponents.

THE BEAUPORT TRANSACTION.

\$320,000 Saved.

Liberal Calumnies.

Mr. Chicoyne, speaking, in the House, about the malicious insinuations fired by the Opposition against the Government, point blank defied the Liberals: "I am here," said he, "to judge the present administration by its acts; bring a direct accusation, I will vote for an investigation, and if you substantiate your accusation, I will join your ranks."

Half reclining in his seat, and almost asleep, the leader of the Opposition was stirred up a little by this energetic language, but his best effort resulted in muttering, in a listless tone of voice: "*The Beauport transaction.*"

"Yes, the Beauport Transaction," replied Mr. Chicoyne, "I was one of those who were prejudiced against that contract, but after having examined the facts, I became convinced that it was most regular."

The Opposition remained silent, and no more was heard, during that session, of the Beauport affair. But now, the Liberal bawlers, more venturesome than of old, commence to repeat the same cry: *the Beauport transaction!*

Well, then, let us see what this Beauport transaction really is! It is well that we should have its history!

Up to 1892 the keeping of lunatics at Beauport was confided to laymen at the fixed price of \$132 per head yearly. This system gave rise to discussions. It was said that the price was too high, and that the patients did not receive all the care necessary in their sad condition, also that the afflicted would be better off if confided to some religious community.

The Government decided to make the change, and, a few months before the existing contract expired, the proprietors were notified that the care of the lunatics would no longer be confided to them. At the same time the Government asked the Sisters of Charity, of Quebec, if they would consent to take charge of the lunatics at the price of \$100 per head, per year. The Sisters accepted. Then it became a question of finding an asylum wherein to lodge the patients. The Beauport asylum existed. It is a splendid building, situated in a most suitable locality, on ground surrounded by trees, verdure and flowers, embellished and improved by

twenty-five years of work. As fine a property could not be found elsewhere. Under the circumstances, everyone admitted that it were better to conserve the asylum, moreover, as the former proprietors had certain claims on the gratitude of the Province, inasmuch as they were the first to provide protection for the mentally afflicted.

Then came the question of purchasing the asylum. The Sisters referred the carrying out of the transaction to the Government. An arbitration was decided upon. The Government named Mr. Peters as expert; the proprietors named Mr. Peachy, and these two named Mr. Berlinguet as third arbitrator. After having examined the property, Mr. Peters valued it at \$311,000, and Messrs. Peachy and Berlinguet valued it at \$709,000, commercial value, and at \$607,000, intrinsic value. After this evaluation the proprietors, adopting the valuation of the majority, asked \$600,000 for the asylum. The Government advised the Sisters not to pay that sum. Further negotiations were entered into. Finally, after several consultations, the Sisters and the proprietors came together on the sum of \$425,000, and the bargain was closed. The care of the lunatics was then confided to the Sisters at \$100 per head, per year, for 1,000 patients. There is, in a few words, the whole history of the Beauport transaction, about which so much noise has been made by the Liberals.

Before this contract existed, the Province paid \$132 per annum for the keeping of the lunatics; to-day it only pays \$100; there is, consequently, a saving of \$32 per year for each patient, or \$32,000 for 1,000 patients that are in the asylum, and \$320,000 for ten years, the term of the contract. And yet the Liberals are not satisfied. Evidently all that does not fall into their hands counts for nothing.

They accuse the Government:

1st. Of having favored the former proprietors;

2nd. Of having forced the Sisters to pay \$425,000;

3rd. Of having bound the Province for that sum, when the Sisters offered to build an asylum without cost to the Province;

4th. Of having conspired to ruin the religious community.

In the first place, how did the Government protect the former proprietors? The majority of the experts fixed the price for the asylum at \$600,000, and the Government said to the Sisters: "Do not pay that sum." Then the proprietors lowered their demand to \$500,000, and the Government again said to the Sisters, "that is too high." Finally the Government, by its stand taken, caused the price to be reduced to \$425,000, the sum asked by the proprietors. Is that the Liberals' method of favoring people? Let the public judge and answer.

Is it true that the Government forced the Sisters to pay \$425,000 ?
The answer is to be found in a letter of Mgr. Begin :

QUEBEC, 28th October, 1892.

Hon. L. P. PELLETIER,
Provincial Secretary,

HONORABLE SIR,

The Sisters of Charity of Quebec are prepared to pay four hundred thousand dollars for the Beauport Asylum, and I am ready to ratify the contract on these conditions.

Since, therefore, the proprietors of the Asylum consent firstly to come down, and in an official manner, to the four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, you may offer four hundred thousand.

If, perchance, the proprietors will in no way accept this offer, ask them to divide the difference, so as to reach four hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. In that case, you need only telephone me and you will have an affirmative or negative answer almost at once.

I wish to have this affair settled, one way or the other, as soon as possible.

Please accept, Honorable, Sir, the expression of my best wishes.

L. N. ARCH. OF CYRENE.

Coadj. to H. E. Card. Taschereau.

So we see that the Sisters, from the 28th October, 1892, were authorized by Mgr. Begin to offer \$400,000, and to split the difference between the two if the proprietors asked for \$450,000.

We remember having read this letter in the House, and the Opposition, through Mr. Fitzpatrick, then a member of the Legislature said : " Had we known that before we would not have said what we did say." So much for the second accusation.

The pretention that the Asylum was bought by the Province and not by the Sisters is most ridiculous. The Sisters bought the property through the Government, and the Sisters pay for it. But, as the former proprietors required sureties, the Government consented to pay, *from the moneys that it owed the Sisters*, the annuities by means of which the Sisters are clearing off their debt. How does this endanger the Province's credit ? We defy the Liberals to show us.

They pretend that the Sisters can abandon their contract at the end of ten years, and that the Province will then have the Asylum on its hands.

They need not fear anything of the kind, since the Sisters wanted from the first to have the contract for twenty years.

But even admitting the pretention of the Liberals, the Province, instead of losing, would gain \$320,000 of savings by the contract, and \$186,000 of annuities paid by the Sisters during ten years, which would cover well the price of purchase. In other words, the Province would become owner of the Asylum for almost nothing. The credit of the Province is, therefore, in no way concerned. Had the Sisters built a new Asylum, which, as they declared, they could not have done at their own expense, the Province would have had to guarantee the amount necessary for such construction, to be repaid from the sums paid for the maintenance of the lunatics. The position would have been exactly the same as to-day. Finally, the Government is accused of having forced the Sisters to pay a high price; in other words, of having conspired to ruin the Sisters. This insinuation was repeated by Mr. Gladu, member for Yamaska, during the last session. He is to be thanked for it, since it started a correspondence that has settled the question forever. Mr. Girard, member for Lake St. John, tired of hearing about this injustice of the Government towards the Sisters, addressed the following letter to the Superioress of the Sisters of Charity :

QUEBEC, 26th November, 1896.

REV. SISTER ST. THEODORE,

House of the Sisters of Charity,

Quebec.

REV. MADAM :

The question of the Beauport Asylum contract, which has now been nearly four years closed, has again, incidentally, caused a debate in the House during the present session.

It seems to me that this question had been settled, when the debates upon it took place some years back, but Mr. Gladu, member for Yamaska, states again that you had been forced by the Government to purchase the Asylum, for the sum of \$425,000.

Would you be kind enough to write me a word to say how the case stands, and I will be infinitely thankful.

I have the honor to be, Madam,

Your obedient servant,

JOS. GIRARD, M. P. P.

HOUSE OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY, QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, 30th November, 1896

MR. JOSEPH GIRARD, M. P. P.,

Legislative Assembly, Quebec:

Sir,—I received your letter concerning the purchase of the Beauport Asylum, and after submitting it to the Council of the community, I am authorized to answer you thus:

We were surprised to receive your letter, for it seems to us difficult for anyone, whosoever, to pretend that our community was forced to buy the Beauport Asylum.

Honorable L. P. Pelletier, who was Provincial Secretary when this transaction took place, made a speech in the House, which we had the satisfaction of reading in the public press, and which presented in an exact and faithful manner all that took place concerning the subject. How could anyone impose the purchase of the Asylum on us, if we did not want to buy it?

Our letters and those of His Grace, Mgr. Begin, which Hon. Mr. Pelletier quoted in his speech, were, we think, sufficiently clear on that point to obviate even the slightest doubt regarding the matter. The documents in question should be before the House, and we beg of you to refer to them. You will find in them that on the 28th October, 1892, His Grace Mgr. Begin authorized Hon. Mr. Pelletier to close the bargain for us at the price of \$425,000. Later, on the 12th December of the same year, we wrote to His Grace Mgr. Begin, who was about to leave for Europe, to have his written authorization to close the bargain in his absence, should the proprietors of the Asylum accept the price that we were prepared to pay. The next day, 13th December, His Grace Mgr. Begin wrote us giving his written authorization to pay \$425,000, if the proprietors agreed to it. I do not cite all those documents in full, for, as I have said, they are filed in the House, and I doubt not but you can secure copies of them if you so desire.

We purchased the Asylum because the Government wished to confide the care of the lunatics to the Sisters. We have only congratulations to express concerning our relations with the Honorable Provincial Secretary of that day, and with the Government, on this subject.

Since that time, we have striven to carry on that new work, and we have reason to hope that, with the help of Providence, we have succeeded in giving satisfaction to the Government and to the public, while, at the same time, saving the Province the sum of \$33,000 each year; which

represents the difference between the amount received by the former proprietors and that received by us.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of the good wishes of our community, and believe me,

Your very humble servant,

SISTER STE.-THÉODORE,

Treasurer.

There is the last Liberal calumny, concerning this Beauport affair, annihilated by the Superioress of the community in question !

To summarize ; the Beauport transaction gave the Government the chance of saving \$300,000, whilst improving the lot of those unfortunates whom society is obliged to protect.

The credit of the Province is in no way concerned ; the Sisters purchased, and the Sisters pay, through the Government. They only paid the price that they were authorized to pay, by their Ordinary, and that price is very reasonable, since the majority of the experts, named to value the property, fixed the price at \$600,000, and that competent judges generally admit that an asylum fit to hold 1,000 patients should cost at least a million. In a word, all interests were protected, but above all the interests of the Sisters and those of the Province.

THE FRENCH LOAN QUESTION.

The Liberals imagined that they had found a great battering-ram, to be used against the Conservatives, in the loan contracted by Mr. Taillon in 1894, to consolidate the loan contracted by Mr. Mercier, for two years, in 1891, and consolidated by Mr. Hall in 1893.

Mr. Taillon, as we shall see, contracted that loan at an interest to which our Province is not accustomed, that is at 3 per cent., instead of 4 and 5 per cent., which were the rates of interest paid so far by the Province for its loans.

It is readily understood that we could not pretend to borrow at as low a rate as 3 per cent. without making some sacrifice of capital. The question is very simple when studied in good faith and without party spirit.

If you agree to pay for a loan a rate of 5 per cent. you obtain, for your obligations, a higher figure. If you only wish to pay 4 per cent. you obtain, for your obligations, a lesser amount than were you paying 5 per cent. In fine, were you to pay only 3 per cent. you obtain an amount still less for your obligations. The question is to know whether or not the

difference in the rate of interest is a sufficient compensation for the sacrifice you make in the amount you receive in return for your subscribed obligation.

In the Taillon loan, for each \$100 obligation, the Province only received \$77.32; but, instead of paying 4 per cent. interest, it only paid 3 per cent. Now, the difference in the rates of interest, at the end of sixty years, the term of the loan, re-established an equilibrium and compensated for the diminishing of the capital received. For this reason, the most famous financiers, basing themselves on mathematical calculation, declared that a loan of 3 per cent. at 77 is equal to a loan of 4 per cent. at 98 and a fraction. By the difference in the rate of interest Mr. Taillon saved annually for the Province about \$7,000. These \$7,000, at compound interest during 60 years, which is the term of the loan, are equivalent to the augmentation of the capital.

Quite a number of countries made similar transactions, and not later than 1891, Russia, which is one of the most powerful nations of Europe, contracted, in Paris, a loan for 3 per cent at about 77, even as did the Province of Quebec, and the finance journals then declared it a success. Here, in the Province of Quebec, the Liberal papers are not afraid to leave their party on this subject and to declare that the transaction operated by Mr. Taillon was really advantageous to the Province. We would like to here quote an article from the *National* of Montreal, a Liberal organ, published in the course of October, 1894, and in which Mr. Taillon's loan is squarely approved of. Here is what the *National* said :

"We got very frightened at the increase of the provincial debt in consequence of the loan that Mr. Taillon secured in Paris, and it was said that he would have done better to have borrowed, at a rate of 4 per cent interest, the four millions that he required. We are of a different opinion. According to our view Mr. Taillon carried out a splendid operation, and the *Star*, the *Witness*, *et tutti quanti* that find fault, should go to school and recommence their studies of arithmetic:

"Before explaining our idea, let us refute certain data. In the first place it is not the sum of \$4,000,000 that the Government must pay, but one of \$4,106,461. The difference seems small at first sight; but we will show, later on, that it is a considerable one.

"Secondly, could the Government have secured a loan at 4 per cent at par? Mr. Hall tried in Paris last spring, and could not obtain anything better than 94 per cent for a loan at 4 per cent interest. Let us hear no more about a loan issued at par. However, let us try a few sums in simple arithmetic, while supposing a loan issued at 4 per cent at par.

"The sum of \$4,106,461, borrowed at par, for 4 per cent. interest, gives an annual interest of \$164,250.

"The sum of \$5,172,412, borrowed by Mr. Taillon, at 3 per cent., gives an interest of \$155,172.

"The difference of interest in favor of the Taillon loan is \$9,078 per year.

"Thus, thanks to that so-much-criticized transaction, the Province will have to pay, during 60 years, each year \$9,078 less than it would have had to pay, if it could have secured a loan of \$4,106,461, at 4 per cent., at par.

"But, it may be said, it is scarcely worth talking of those nine thousand dollars, when at the end of sixty years we will have to return \$1,065,951, over and above the \$4,106,461 due to-day !

Well, then ! Here is exactly where the mistake comes in. Any arithmetic will tell you that a revenue of one dollar per year, placed at four per cent., will produce in 60 years \$238. Consequently this little sum of \$9,078, that we would have had to pay had we not borrowed at four per cent., will produce \$238 times more; that is to say, \$2,160,564, which added to the \$4,106,461 already due, would result, after 60 years, in the neat total of \$6,267,025.

"Mr. Taillon issued debentures payable in 60 years for the total sum of \$5,172,412; the future generation, thanks to Mr. Taillon, will have to pay in sixty years \$1,094,613 less than it would have to pay had Mr. Hall succeeded in borrowing at four per cent.

"Is this clear enough ?"

These calculations are made under the supposition that Mr. Hall had floated his contract of four per cent. at par. A Florida-water supposition. At the beginning of this year he could not find a rate higher than 94 per cent.

"Under these circumstances, to obtain \$4,106,461, he would have had to issue debentures to the total value of \$4,352,842.66, the interest of which, at 4 per cent, would have been \$174,083.94 per annum, or \$18,941.94 more than the Province has to pay on the Taillon loan.

"If the Government had the wisdom to create a sinking fund with these \$18,941.94 that it would yearly save, at the end of sixty years, this fund would have reached \$4,508,181.72; so that, to redeem his loan of \$4,433,066, the Province would only have to pay out \$924,884.28.

"Such is the enormous result that can be obtained with the decrease of interest obtained by Mr. Taillon, and which the *Star* laughingly ridicules, as if the result was a trifle unworthy of mention.

"Mr. Taillon may be a Conservative, the *National* is not ridiculous enough to censure him while he is saving the Province's money."

It is a Liberal organ that thus squarely approves of the loan that the Liberals tried to make a scandal out of against the Conservative Government.

This avowal on the part of an hostile press is a peremptory answer to the diatribes of our opponents

For the population of a country, the weight of a loan is always calculated by the weight of interest. Even though you tell me that the capital of such a loan is higher than the capital of such other one, if the annual interest which the people must pay for the second is lower than that which must be paid for the first, it is an evident advantage for those who pay.

It is true that in 60 years the future generations will be face to face with a somewhat higher debt than had the rate of interest, paid each year, been higher. But if we calculate the value represented by the decrease of interest during sixty years, we will be convinced that the second operation must be more advantageous to the Province.

Let us take an example that will more clearly explain the comparison. Two farmers borrow \$1,000 each for ten years. The first only receives \$90 for each \$100 obligation, but he only pays 3 per cent., the other receives \$100, that is at par, but he pays 4 per cent. The first loses \$100, it is true, of the capital, but he will save \$10 per year interest, or, for the ten years, \$100 that the second will pay over and above him. Which one makes the better bargain?

The loan is virtually equal in both cases. This is the whole secret of the Taillon loan at \$77 (3 p.c.) and of the Mercier loan at \$94 (4 p.c.)

This transaction of Mr. Taillon had for effect the elevation of the Province's credit, inasmuch as it placed the Province in the rank of the countries that can borrow at low rates of interest.

At first start, we had to make a slight sacrifice to obtain this result, but the value of all our other operations remained, and, when two years later, we had to contract the last loan to complete paying off the floating debt left by Mr. Mercier, we obtained for our obligations bearing 4 per cent. interest a figure, that had never before been obtained by our Province: that is \$105 for each \$100 obligation, in other words 5 p.c. premium. This shows that Mr. Taillon's transaction of 1894, instead of injuring the credit of the Province, only raised it.

One of the arguments used by the Liberals against the Taillon loan in 1894, was that we could have used the seven millions that the Pacific railway owes the Province for the purchase of the North Shore road, and on which, since then, we had to agree to a reduction of the interest paid by the Company.

Here is the solid reason why we refused to apply these seven millions to the payment of Mercier's loan: These \$7,000,000 were effected by the statutes of 1882 for the wiping out of the loans of 1874, 1876 and 1878. Read the clauses of the law (Statutes of 1882, p. 106).

"Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislature of Quebec, ordains as follows:

"1st. The price of the sale of the two sections of the 'Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa and Occidental railroad,' shall be used for the payment of the consolidated debt of the Province.

"2nd. That price will enter into the funds created for the clearing off of the loans effected in virtue of the Acts 37 Vict., chap. 2; 39 Vict., chap. 4, and 41 Vict., chap. 1.

"3rd. The sum of three millions of dollars, payable according to the conditions of the contract of sale of the Western section, after six months' notice, or after the expiration of the twenty years, by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, will be employed for the payment of the three million dollar loan, made in virtue of the Act, 41 Vict., chap. 1, which will complete the sinking fund created for the redeeming of that loan.

"4th. The sum of three million five hundred thousand dollars, payable at term, according to the conditions of the contract of sale of the Eastern section, by the Northern Railway Company, will be employed as well for the payment of the loan made in virtue of the Act, 39 Vict., chap. 4, and the sum of five hundred and fifty-nine thousand seven hundred and seventy dollars and thirty-three cents, will be taken from the balance of the price of sale of the two sections, to complete the sinking fund created for the redeeming of that loan.

"5th. The balance of the price of sale of the two sections will be employed for the payment, so far, of the loan made in virtue of the Act, 37 Vict., chap. 2, and will constitute part of the sinking fund created for the redeeming of that loan."

This is very clear. The \$7,000,000 of the Pacific are destined, by a law, for the payment of the loans of 1874, 1876, and 1878. And at the time of the subsequent loans, as an encouragement to the purchasers of our new bonds, the Province plumed itself on the fact that the sinking fund for the former loans was solidly established, thanks to these \$7,000,000.

This consideration must have caused many small capitalists to purchase our paper. So that the good faith of the Province demands the respecting of the 1882 law. Who can tell what damage might not be caused to the Province's credit by a misappropriation of the sinking fund thus effected by the statutes of 1882? Such a course might raise a storm on

the Paris and London markets, and the holders of our debentures might have accused the Province of Quebec of having diminished the guarantees in consideration of which they had loaned their money, and of not keeping faith.

Certainly our adversaries will say: but you pointed out, yourselves, that intention by your law of 1893. To this we reply: by the law of that session we desired to secure a legal right which we would be at liberty to use or not use. If our credit would not have permitted to otherwise meet the \$4,000,000 when due, then, to avoid dishonor, we would have overleaped all objections, and of two evils, the non-applying of the sinking fund of 1882, or bankruptcy—we would have chosen the lesser, that is the non-applying of the law of 1882. But as the Government could do otherwise, it was its duty to refrain from turning the \$7,000,000 out of their statutory channel.

Only ignorance or bad faith can possibly misunderstand this statement.

With this affair, as with all others, the speakers and newspapers of the Liberal party make a loud noise, but despite all their bravado, they have never dared formulate an accusation against Mr. Taillon, or against any one else. They confined themselves to shouting, but when there was question of formulating anything that could touch the honor or integrity of Conservative public men, they wisely, if in a cowardly manner, sank into silence.

THE MONTREAL COURT HOUSE.

Another Liberal Mess

Closed up by the Conservatives.

That enlargement of the Montreal Court House is one of the worst mixed up affairs, one of the most incomprehensible, and one of the nastiest transactions that the "Clique" Government left, as heritage, to the present administration.

In the first place, before undertaking this work, the Mercier Government had already spent \$89,694.73 for repairs and improvements in that building. In this bulk sum are to be found \$18,178.35 paid for the purchase of a small church, situated near the Court House—the intention being to extend the Court House in that direction. That was the original plan, otherwise the purchase of that property was unnecessary, and the price paid for it was lost money to the Province. After having spent over \$71,000 in various repairs (see Journals of Legislative Assembly, 1893, p. 158), the Mercier Government decided, in 1890, to undertake the work

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of enlarging the Court House, which had long since been asked for by all the legal fraternity ; but, instead of following the original plan, that is to say the utilizing of the ground bought for that purpose in 1887, and paid for with \$18,178.35, the Liberal Government abandoned that project for one of enlarging by the addition of a story, and the 29th May, 1890, tenders were called for.

Several contractors tendered, amongst others Messrs. Chas. Berger, for \$249,000 ; Messrs. Bastien & Valiquette for \$229,000, and Mr. A. J. Andrews for \$118,000. In the two first cases, if the woodwork of the roof was to be replaced by steel-roofing, the tenderers deducted \$1,500 from their tender, the steel to be furnished at 5 cents per pound ; in Mr. Andrews's case, he offered to deduct \$1,100 for the woodwork, and offered to furnish the steel for 6 cents per pound. (See document No. 47, pp. 4 to 11, Sessional Papers, Vol. 24—III, 1890).

Messrs. Perreault and Mesnard, the government architects, made a report on these tenders, but not agreeing in their estimates they suggested a reconsideration of the tenders. Reconsideration does not mean a call for new tenders.

However, the Mercier government did nothing, and the 24th July, 1890, new tenders were asked. Five contractors tendered ; they were :

R. Chartrand & Co.....	\$179,900
D. Ford & Co.....	198,000
H. Bourgoin & Son.....	169,995
C. Berger & Co.....	194,999
Brunet, Laurier & Co.....	177,000

(See Document No. 47, p. 12, vol. 24—III, 1890.)

Messrs. Perreault and Mesnard reported (*Ibid*, p. 13) that the tender of Chartrand & Co. was in accordance with the conditions of their estimate, less the guarantee clause which was left blank, and that the tender of Chs. Berger & Co. was in all respects in accord with their estimate. As to the others the architects seem to have crossed them out because they did not mention the names of the sub-contractors, or else that they did not offer sufficient securities.

There then only remained the Chartrand and Berger tenders.

The Mercier government at once leaped on the higher of the two, that of Berger & Co., which asked \$194,999.

Why so ?

Is it true that Berger & Co. offered more securities than did Chartrand & Co ?

No.

The Chartrand tender was absolutely identical with the Berger one, except that it was \$15,099 lower; as to the securities, a cheque for \$10,000 accompanied each of the tenders as evidence of good faith in the tenderers.

The difference between the two in price was sufficiently large to cause the government to reflect and to ask other securities from Chartrand & Co. if the \$10,000 cheque was not sufficient.

Not at all; the 1st September 1890 (see the same document p. 20) the Government accepted the Berger tender and passed a contract with that firm for the enlarging of the Montreal Court House, leaving aside a tender equally as regular and far lower in price.—This is the first enigma.

The contract called for the completion of the work on the 1st September, 1891, giving one year for the execution of the work. The estimate affixed to the contract mentioned all that was to be done, except the heating, stairways, ventilation, plumbing, and drainage. Why was this omission made? Enigma number two.

In any case the work was commenced on the 3rd December, 1890. Over a year afterwards, instead of having the work completed, Mr. Berger presented a claim for damages, pretending that he had been prevented from carrying on the work by different difficulties arising from sundry causes (see Document No. 48. p. 17, vol. 26-27—III. 1892).

The mess was now at its worst. A contract was given to tear down a part of an old building in order to add a new story to it. Men in the business should know that if they can tell where such a work is to begin, they never can state where it is to end. So it was with the Montreal Court House. An old building, the inside of which had been divided and cut up in every imaginable way, it was impossible to know what the plaster of the walls hid under its coating. In his memorandum, submitted in February, 1892, to establish his claim to damages, Mr. Berger said that he was obliged to demolish and rebuild whole walls, for he perceived that their shaky state would endanger the rest of the building. And so it was right on to the end. So much so, that of the old building the four stone walls alone remain to-day, all the interior having been rebuilt in the new.

When the present government came into power in December, 1891, the works that should have been completed three months before were not half finished. On the contrary, already extras, or additional contracts for a large sum existed. Every day new holes were found that had to be plugged up, walls to be torn down, pillars to be replaced; in a word, it was the quintessence of chaos.

Remember that the contract given by the Mercier Government was for \$194,999. Of that sum \$147,000 had already been paid to the contractors, Berger & Co. But there were extras, or additional work done to the value of \$100,000, namely, \$45,237.82, plus \$9,500, plus \$55,289.99 certified to by

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the architects named by the Mercier Government, Messrs. Perreault and Mesnard. (See deposition of Mr. Perreault before the Public Accounts Committee of 1895, in answer to Hon. Mr. Nantel).

As we see, things were badly mixed up, and the extras threatened to beat out the principal contract.

The 8th February, 1892, Hon. Mr. Nantel, ordered Messrs. Berger & Co., to stop all extra works and to keep strictly inside the limits of the original or principal contract. (See document No. 48, p. 13, Vol. 26-27—III. 1892.

The 12th February, the Messrs. Berger replied that they were ready to conform to these orders, but they remarked that they could not work on the principal contract until certain additional works were completed. (*Ibid.* page 14); the extras, therefore, became more necessary than the principal contract, which shows the ignorance, not to use a stronger term, with which this contract was given. Mr. Perreault had evidently a right to say in his testimony before the Public Accounts Committee, that many items were *purposely* omitted.

Under these circumstances it became necessary to find out how matters stood, what had been done, and what remained to be done, and Hon. Mr. Nantel commissioned Messrs. Hutchison and Raza, two of Montreal's best architects, one of whom, Mr. Hutchison, had been recommended by Mr. Stephens, Liberal member for Huntingdon, to have the works examined and to see how much remained to be done. Would you like to know in what state these gentlemen found the Court House, after a year and a half of work performed by the Mercier Government? Mr. Raza was questioned on oath before the Public Accounts Committee in 1895, and he will tell you:

Question: "Will you state the general condition in which you found the building when you took it?"

Answer: "The building was in disorder, everything was disturbed, torn down and broken up, even certain parts were damaged, and props had to be put up in different places to protect from the existing danger."

Question: "Apart from the four walls and the roof, had you to have work done in the interior?"

Answer: "Yes, nearly all, even to the connecting pieces inside the walls; we were obliged to take it down in order to replace it in part so that we could nail the strained portions up. The connecting wood was broken, rotten, and the building was very old."

Question: "How much did it cost to solidify the building below—at the foundation?"

Answer: "I think that the cost was about twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000). In any case, the exact account is to be found in a special estimate, made expressly for that purpose."

Question: "Were you obliged to repair certain work done in the building, in the cupola?"

Answer: "Yes, when we came to do the plastering in the cupola, we noticed that the dome sank, in certain parts, seven inches, and that the beams which supported it in the centre had sunk four, five and six inches, and that the columns supporting the dome were not strong enough."

This should suffice to prove that the Berger contract was a farce, intentionally or not, that must cost the Province a handsome sum.

All that could be done was to make the most of it, and that is what the Government did in continuing the work, with all possible economy. But the business was badly started, and the effects of that start were felt for a long time afterwards.

The whole affair cost	\$1,166,240 00
Of that sum the Mercier Government is responsible for the following :	
Paid before 21st December, 1891.....	\$ 192,086 23
Paid since that date up to the 15th November, 1894, for works authorized before the 21st December, 1891. (See Report of Commissioner of Public Works, for 1894, p. 138.)	105,252 57
Claim of Mr. Chas. Berger on the first contract given by the Mercier Government.....	117,916 51
Claim of Perreault and Mesnard, architects, named by the Mercier Government, for \$60,000 and settled by the present Government for \$27,565, the part for the Montreal Court House being.....	13,231 20
(See answer No. 49 to an order of the House dated 9th January, 1897).	
Balance for furnishing, from the contract accorded to Mr. Vallière by the Mercier Government.....	13,451 51
Paid for the purchase of the St. Gabriel Church and other repairs under the Mercier Government	89,694 73
	\$ 531,632 75
The amount of work authorized and paid for by the present Government is consequently	\$ 634,607 70

The Mercier Government spent \$531,632.75, and according to the evidence of the architects nothing almost had been done for it. The hand of the "Cligue" had surely left its impress there.

These figures, moreover, prove that for a contract of \$194,000, the Mercier Government had already spent \$452,038.02, when it fell,—for we must deduct from the sum of \$531,632.85 the \$89,000 also spent by the Mercier Government, but anterior to this contract.

So that in this case, as in others, the Conservative government made the best of a bad job.

The Liberals call this a scandal, because it all cost dearly and that the architects were dear.

It cost dearly because the undertaking was badly commenced.

When the Conservative government came in everything had been demolished, and almost nothing built up, yet nearly \$300,000 had been spent. It was necessary to recommence, and the judges and court officials had to have offices. Much of this work had to be repaired at night time, at heavy expense, so as not to delay the courts.

The architects were paid a high price. Less, however, than under the Mercier government. Moreover, it was impossible to secure the work of good architects at low prices when the Mercier government had granted to its architects the full tariff, or, in other words, whatever they asked.

The Liberals sought for this scandal before the Public Accounts Committee, but they found nothing.

Let us close with a quotation from the *Patrie*, a good Liberal organ, which, after visiting the Court House as completed, stated on the 13th July, 1893:

"We must say that the work being done in the reconstruction of this building is immense, herculean; so much so that all has been made over from the first to the last story, and that of the old Court House only the four walls remain."

After praising the system of ventilation, of lighting, the iron staircases, the offices of the employees, the *Patrie* adds:

"Finally, all the little details show how important the improvements will be. Nothing old will be found, unless it be the external walls; the interior walls have all been made over in the new, and it would be hard to form an idea of the amount of work necessary to complete these changes. This Court House undertaking is not the most advantageous in the world for the country, for it will swallow up a clear million. But we need not be

